



From the desk of
State Rep.
Brian Clem

Support SB 963: staff and student safety and dignity *Brian Clem*

Vote YES to provide desperately needed clarity in statutes governing the use of protective physical intervention/physical restraint in Oregon schools

Current state law puts K-12 public school students and staff at risk by severely restricting the instances in which a professional educator can intervene to keep students safe from physical harm. Existing statutes also are ambiguous and create uncertainty for educators about what actions would make them susceptible to discipline for simply trying to protect students, themselves, or other adults safe from harm.

Right now, educators are not able to provide protective physical intervention for many common occurrences in which there is broad agreement that common sense and public expectation would be that a physical intervention would be appropriate and necessary:

- Keeping a student from running into a busy street
- Blocking away inappropriate physical touch/ attempted touch of intimate areas
- Intervention in physical fights
- Lifting a student down from an unstable stool, chair, windowsill, or other unstable, unsafe circumstance

At the same there are some types of restraints currently in use that expose students and staff to increased risk of injury or embarrassment.

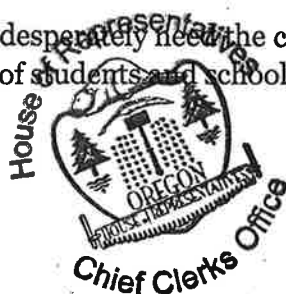
SB 963 provides important and much-needed clarification

SB 963 clarifies a host of circumstances in which protective physical intervention/physical restraint may be used.

Additionally, it adds teeth to existing requirements that schools log and report every instance of physical intervention. This is necessary to ensure that physical intervention is not disproportionately applied to any segment of the student population, in addition to providing insights into the circumstances and settings in which events escalate to a level to require this type of intervention.

SB 963 also expressly prohibits the use of several outmoded or dangerous types of restraint.

Students, educators, and other school stakeholders desperately need the changes in statute included in SB 963 to ensure the safety and dignity of students and school personnel. Please vote YES on SB 963.



5/14/19