



Disability
Rights
Oregon

TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Ben Gurewitz
DATE: March 3, 2025
RE: HB 3357 Support

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Vice-Chair McIntire, and members of the House Committee

My name is Ben Gurewitz, and I am testifying on behalf of Disability Rights Oregon in opposition to House Bill 3357. Disability Rights Oregon is the state's Protection and Advocacy System, authorized by Congress to protect, advocate for, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities.

DRO does not oppose the creation of a statewide data collection to track employee injuries. However, DRO strongly opposes HB 3357 because it currently includes vague provisions that would include and disaggregate staff injuries which involve students in a statewide data base. Our opposition to those provisions is based on a long history of efforts by many school districts and other stakeholders to justify unnecessary suspensions, expulsions, shortened school days, referrals to police, and informal removals by sensationalizing staff injuries rather than providing the behavioral supports that are needed if students with disabilities are to be successful in school. DRO does not at all deny that there are incidents in which staff and students with disabilities are injured during incidents of behavioral dysregulation.

However, our experience confirms that the answer to that problem is more, and better behavioral supports provided by well trained and supported staff rather than a collecting data which can be weaponized to demonize them and support their removal from school.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with

¹ See ORS 192.517.

disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and “pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies”.² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO’s position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).