

Submitter: Eriko Ono
On Behalf Of: disabled students in the public school system
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

Hello,

I am writing to oppose HB3835. As the parent of a child with behavior challenges in the public school setting, I do not support a more relaxed definition of restraints and isolation. I also do not support less oversight when either of these strategies are used. Oversight is already difficult in many school settings. Parents are often not provided incident reports and often these restraints are coming from the same staff over and over again. My child has been at schools where the staff do NOT put hands on kids unless they are in imminent danger to themselves- and even then, blocking with bodies is usually effective. And he has been at a school that has used "safe" restraints on him repeatedly, but undocumented. It is my absolute belief that we cannot trust certain staff to refrain from using physical interventions rather than learning how to de-escalate children without physical force. Physical force almost always escalates behaviors and makes things worse. We should be investing in better training and education for those who work with children with challenging behaviors.

-Eriko Ono