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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835

23+ years gave me first hand look at what the laws have done, as they changed over the years for schools and treatment facilities. Good intentions, but no bang for the buck. The family has to be treated as a whole, no excuses accepted over and over as to why they can't come to free therapy!! At first started we got money directly from the state, we had a few slots for kids that otherwise would have fallen through the cracks for help. Those went away. Now that same money passes through two other agencies, by the time it gets to the point of actually helping the kids there is a lot less of it, thanks to all the additional high dollar admin costs and redundancy. There is a quagmire of paperwork for every incident. You have good hearted trained people working with kids that are trying to do their best to help them and they put themselves and their reputations on the line everyday to do so and usually are the lowest paid positions. Restraints need to be used immediately to protect both parties involved. Remove acting out kids from classrooms instead of removing the class. Seclusion's description is the problem. Letting the child have space to themselves while still in plain view is a necessary tool and some kids thought it helped them calm down. In public school and treatment facilities the other kids suffer due to the disruption by a few. I would challenge anyone at the legislator to spend a day working in one of these facilities hands on to see what they are really like, you try to handle an out of control kid with all these rules you have put in place. They can seriously injure you but if natural consequences get them hurt its a huge problem and even more paperwork. Too much time is taken away from treatment because of incidence reports and daily notes. There needs to be change, yes, but balanced. Legislators should be talking to the people working in the trenches for ideas, not the talking heads trying to get money for their programs. Then maybe you can fix the rules so both sides can be safe. Also it would be great if you simplified the written rules, they are a beast to have to keep referring back to some subsection so you can understand it.