

March 19, 2025

RE: Oppose HB 3835

Dear Chair Hartman, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to oppose HB3835. I do not support making it easier to restrain or seclude children, or making it easier to obscure the damage caused by restraint and seclusion by limiting what can be investigated—which is exactly what this bill will do.

My son has I/DD, is nonspeaking, and was illegally secluded in an Oregon school in 5th grade for most of the school year in 2014. He was not physically harmed, but he developed PTSD. It ruined school for him and resulted in him being classified 5B service level on the ONA in 2016.

His behavior became so extreme in the years that followed that I was considering a SACU placement for him, which would have cost the state 105,000 USD per month.

Once placed, it is very difficult to return to home and community based services. Restraint and seclusion tend to lead to **more** restraint and seclusion, not less; so this bill seems likely to result in a very expensive problem for the state down the road.

If investigations of the harms are not allowed, or are severely limited, information about the actual damage and costs created by restraint and seclusion will not be available for people to make informed decisions on policy in the future.

I urge you to oppose HB 3835.

Sincerely,
Lynne Mason
SALEM, OR 97304