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On Behalf Of: Max and Alastair Merritt
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
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2 years ago my son came home with a broken backpack. Max. The kiddo and the green Luigi hoodie at the last Tensy's law hearing.

The next day I got to call that he had a broken permanent tooth. His front tooth. He fell on his face

We later discover the only staff that was with him at the time of his accident was later to be found using inappropriate unapproved, and unnecessary forms of restraints on Max. To the point that we suddenly have to have five restraint debriefment meetings in a row when discovered. And Caused delays in medical treatment and for Max. And Max's disability coordinator filed multiple complaints for lack of mandatory abuse reporting.

Max lost his permanent front tooth. He has a reminder everyday of the cost of excessive restraints for non -appropriate reasons. He couldn't tell me what was happening. He started screaming. Something he still struggles with to this day. He started calling himself ugly. Please please stop this. Please do not make it easier for other Oregon children to be victimized like Max was.

I struggle with depression and anxiety over covering the cost of Max's replacement tooth someday. Police told me it was below their level of interest given their (low) resources and perceived a lack of access to the recordings of the incidence(s.) Lawyers told me that juries don't believe disabled children. I could could sue, but it would eaten by fees. And restraints are legal in Oregon classrooms.

All it takes is a care provider to call an "assault" a restraint and it's legal and nobody cares about it. That's how it is now. Don't make it easier. Please I beg I'm begging here. It just about broke my heart to tell my son. He wouldn't have a front tooth for the rest of his childhood. Max was failed. Let's stop failing.

When I was talking to a sergeant about what happened to my son. And he was explaining how nothing was going to be done. I told him that it felt like I found out the acceptable level of abuse to show a disabled child. He said I was not wrong. And that level is a permanent front tooth. It's okay though in Oregon that's not a body part. Understand that doesn't even count as maimed. My son Max has a permanent reminder every time he looks in the mirror. About what the true cost is of an unnecessary restraint on a disabled child.