

**March 20, 2025**

Chair Hartman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dianna Hansen, and I am writing from Tumalo, Oregon, to strongly oppose HB 3835. This bill would make it easier to restrain and seclude children—causing harm rather than ensuring safety.

Under **Sec. 1 (1)(j)(B)**, HB 3835 changes the definition of “restraint” to exclude actions where the abuser claims to have intended to support a child’s safety or development—even if their actions result in serious injury. This allows abusers to justify harmful restraint simply by stating they had no intent to cause harm, effectively exempting them from accountability.

**Sec. 22(1)(L) and Sec. 32 (b)** redefine “wrongful restraint” so that only certain restraints qualify as abuse, meaning DHS would not investigate others, including mechanical restraints (such as handcuffing or tying up children) and prone or supine restraint—both of which have caused deaths. This severely weakens protections for vulnerable children.

Under **Sec. 32(3)(b), Sec. 1 (3)(a), Sec. 3 (1), and Sec. 13 (2)**, child abuse investigators would not be allowed to investigate cases where a child is handcuffed or forcibly pressed to the floor. Even though these actions would still be technically prohibited, excluding them from investigation makes enforcement meaningless.

Regarding seclusion, **Sec. 22(1)(L), Sec. 32 (b), and Sec. 1** ensure that only “wrongful seclusion” is considered abuse, meaning DHS will only investigate cases where seclusion is used for retaliation, punishment, or convenience. Under **Sec. 2(a) and subsection (1)(i)**, as long as a school or care provider claims a “legitimate purpose” for seclusion—such as helping a child calm down—it will not be considered wrongful, regardless of how long the child is isolated or the harmful conditions they endure. This removes critical safeguards against prolonged and dangerous seclusion.

Beyond these concerns, HB 3835 also fails to provide sufficient oversight for children in foster care, out-of-state placements, and hoteling situations. It weakens protections and accountability, leaving children at increased risk of harm.

I urge you to oppose HB 3835. This bill prioritizes systems over children’s safety and well-being, and it must not move forward.

Sincerely,

*Dianna J. Hansen*

Tumalo, Oregon