



March 26, 2025

**Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,**

At Bridging Communities, we support and advocate for families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As the Regional Family Network serving Jackson & Josephine Counties, many of the families we serve have experienced heartbreak, frustration, and fear because of how restraint and seclusion practices have been applied—or misapplied—in school settings.

That's why we are grateful for SB 1113, a bill that brings clear, trauma-informed protections to some of the most vulnerable students in Oregon.

Too often, restraint and seclusion have been used as default responses to behavior that could have been de-escalated with training, compassion, or simply more time. For our children—many of whom struggle to communicate verbally or manage overwhelming sensory input—these interventions can be terrifying. And when used inappropriately or misunderstood, they leave lasting emotional scars.

SB 1113 makes sure that never happens without justification. It clearly defines restraint as the intentional use of physical force that limits movement, and it bans the use of restraint for punishment, convenience, or retaliation. It requires that only trained personnel may use these interventions—except in genuine emergencies—and that students must be monitored the entire time. The bill also specifies that restraint and seclusion may only be used when there is a real, immediate threat of serious bodily injury, and only for as long as that risk exists.

This bill respects the humanity of our children. It brings structure, clarity, and compassion into a space that has, for too long, been governed by fear and vague guidelines. Most importantly, it recognizes the complexity of these issues and takes into account individual circumstances without requiring a one size fit all approach.

We urge you to support SB 1113—for the families who just want their children to be safe at school, and for the professionals who want to do the right thing but need clear, consistent guidance to do so.

With gratitude,

**Stacy Fields**

Bridging Communities, Director