

To: Chair Annessa Hartman, Vice-Chairs Hoa Nguyen & Anna Sharf
Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services

From: Anne Marie Bäckström

Date: November 25th, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of HB 3835

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen & Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Anne Marie Bäckström, and I am here today in my personal capacity. My testimony today is deeply personal. I am here to share my story as well as the story of my niece, Olive, in opposition of [HB 3835](#).

I spent a large portion of my childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood in a revolving door of inpatient, residential, and various other levels of care, or what is now commonly referred to as “the troubled teen industry.” Although I still struggle with my mental health, through a lot of luck, **a lot** of privilege, and a lot of hard work, I have made a life worth living. A life where I can love and be loved, parent with pride, and achieve the dreams I never thought possible as a small and scared child.

Living with significant mental health symptoms, the kinds that aren’t always pretty, or palatable, comes with challenges. One of those challenges should not be the kind that stem from witnessing or experiencing the often life lasting harms of restraint and involuntary seclusion. I was lucky, I was never physically restrained when a danger to myself to the point of grave bodily harm. But I witnessed these occurrences, time and time again. Other children have been harmed, time and time again by use of restraint that utilizes more force than necessary often due to inadequate training and lack of trauma informed care.

I have PTSD from what I lived through as a child. These experiences ingrained in me that kids like me were bad, that we were dangerous, that we were without hope.

Briefly I would like to share the story of my minor niece, in her words, with her permission:

“There was a lot of yelling, there were some kids arguing with staff for their rights, I came out of my room because, you know, rights are important, then four adult men ran at me, a fifth joined, I was held down and restrained, mind you, I was not aggressive, I now have a permanent injury in my left shoulder, the nurse didn't check me out after like they were supposed to.

I felt violated and like my rights were stripped away in a space where I was supposed to be safe.”

These experiences are not okay, however, could be the very real unintended consequences of this bill as written.

I would like to call attention to Senator Gelser-Blouin's bill, [SB 1113](#). I find this to be a vehicle to mitigate some of these harms and an avenue for positive change.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I urge you to vote no on [HB 3835](#) and hope all parties can come to the table to find a solution that works for all and protects the rights of some of our most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AMB', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anne Marie Bäckström