

Submitter: Amy Fellows
On Behalf Of: Oregon's Youth
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1113

Sen Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum and members of the committee-

My name is Amy Fellows and I live in Eugene and I am in strong support of SB1113. I am the parent of a child who experienced Restraint & Seclusion in the school setting in 2nd grade that still impacts them 8 years later. There would have been more restraint and seclusion due to the racist ableism my child experienced from staff and peers if the district hadn't pushed them out as continues to happen to so many of our Autistic students that are grossly misunderstood and not given the right accommodations. Even with parents who are both retired public school educators, I could not protect my child.

SB1113 is so important as it continues where SB710 left off. SB 710 passed in 2021 and was a good bill however did not get properly implemented and trained at the agency, school district or placement setting levels, with even more detailed descriptions of when it is appropriate for adults in care settings to put their hands on children and makes very clear what is considered wrongful restraint without taking away children's protections as other bills this session intend to. Senator Gelser Blouin myself and other parents of children who have been harmed in the crafting of SB1113.

SB1113 also aligns with Oregon Senator Merkley's bipartisan Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act Now Law (<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/merkleys-bipartisan-stop-institutional-child-abuse-act-now-law/>) which is now federal law. It is critical that Oregon lead the country in ensuring the safety of children after years of system cover ups of abuse of Oregon's most vulnerable children in the care of systems and settings that are supposed to protect them.

SB1113 puts Oregon in a good position to move beyond conversations about Restraint and Seclusion to upstream conversations that will support the workforce concerns and give adults in all settings the tools to prevent the need for them in most cases.

There are national experts if Oregon wants to explore these strategies more. (Greg Santucci, OT <https://gregsantucci.com> who we brought to Oregon last August for the Youth IDD Mental Health Summit is an expert on sensory safe environments, Dr. Lori Desautels of Revelations in Education <https://revelationsineducation.com> is an expert on teaching teachers (and other adults) about their own nervous systems and how to

be co-regulators for children instead of expecting children to know how to self-regulate without adult co-regulation. And I believe OHA already has contracts for training Collaborative Problem Solving, I am not sure if that has been shared with ODE or ODHS though.) <https://livesinthebalance.org>

Guy Stephens at the Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint (<https://endseclusion.org>) would be a great person for Oregon to consult with as we struggle with this complex issue. I want to invite all of you to come to the August 6 Youth IDD Mental Health Summit at Oregon State University where Guy Stephens will be our keynote speaker. It would be an excellent place for the creators of HB3835 to come and learn approaches ODHS, school and residential settings can use to prevent the harm and trauma of restraint and seclusion. <https://iddmhsummit.com>

I urge you to Support SB1113 for all of Oregon's children and to try to ensure it is properly implemented and trained at the workforce level.

Thank you for your time.

Amy Fellows
Eugene, OR