

Submitter: Noelle Sisk
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3835
Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3835A and its proposed -5 amendment. As a concerned Oregonian, former educator who worked with this population and now an advocate I am deeply troubled by the direction this bill takes—especially in how it would impact Oregon’s most vulnerable children. I have had nonverbal autistic students live in hotels for months and been directly part of student reunification teams and deeply understand the complexities and utterly heartbreaking situations we have this vulnerable population in. In NO way do we need to take steps for less protection and independent oversight but need to increase it when students with disabilities already experience a higher level of abuse at the hands of the systems meant to protect them. Please do not in any way put them at more risk. As someone who has worked in therapeutic settings and trained in non violent crisis intervention (NCI) to be able to safely restrain and child who is hurting themselves or others, I have absolutely seen it overused in an abusive way especially for students who are developmentally and intellectually disabled, or have high behavioral support needs. Do not in any way assume in a residential or therapeutic setting this isn’t happening. I could not more strongly oppose moving forward with this bill.

This legislation reduces critical safeguards for children in the care of the state—particularly children with disabilities, who are already overrepresented in the child welfare system. HB 3835A narrows the definition of abuse and weakens oversight of practices like restraint and seclusion, which are often misused and deeply traumatizing. This would be directly causing harm to disabled children.

The idea that physical or emotional harm could go uninvestigated simply because it doesn’t meet a narrowed threshold, or that out-of-state placements could be made with less oversight, should concern every Oregonian. These children deserve trauma-informed, community-based care—not isolation, restraint, and reduced legal protection.

We have a shared responsibility to uphold the dignity and safety of every child in state care. HB 3835A moves us in the wrong direction—one that could lead to more harm, more silence, and fewer checks on institutional power.

I strongly urge you to vote no on HB 3835A and reject any amendments that diminish protections for children in care. Oregon must do better. Please stand up for these children who don’t have anyone else to do that for them.

Sincerely,
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