



Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the Committee

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Education Association, which represents more than 42,000 across Oregon's K-12 public schools—classroom teachers, counselors, education support professionals, specialists, and others who dedicate their lives to the success and well-being of Oregon's students.

We support HB 3835 in its current form under the A5 amendment. We acknowledge that public education has been removed from the bill, and we agree that further work on school-specific restraint and seclusion policy deserves its own process—one that allows time for the complexity of these issues to be fully explored and understood.

Even in a long session, the legislative timeline imposes constraints that make it difficult to engage in the kind of deep, collaborative work that meaningful policy reform requires. OEA is committed to participating in an interim workgroup—alongside families, disability advocates, educators, and care providers—to approach this conversation with care, clarity, and shared purpose.

This is a delicate and emotional topic. Whether you're a parent, a provider, or a classroom educator, people bring personal stories and deeply held concerns to this issue. OEA believes that most who work in these systems come to it with a desire to make the world better—to help others, protect their communities, and serve vulnerable children. That perspective matters. It deserves a table where people can be heard, feel safe, and work together to develop sideboards and safeguards that reflect both compassion and accountability.

There is a balance to strike. We are committed to helping find that balance through a coalition-driven, thoughtful process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.