



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 12, 2025

In Support of HB 3835
House Committee on Rules

Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 3835.

I support the effort behind this bill. It provides much-needed clarity around what is—and is not—appropriate when it comes to restraint, seclusion, and physical intervention involving children in care. But I want to emphasize a critical point: this bill is necessary not because adults are running wild, but because the current legal framework has made it almost impossible for well-meaning people to act without fear of liability or professional ruin.

I've heard this from foster families. I've heard it from school staff. And I've seen it firsthand in tragic cases—like one from my district, where a family took in a foster child from Colorado who had a known history of physical and sexual aggression. That information wasn't disclosed to them. Once in Oregon, the boy harmed others in the home. The family had nowhere to turn. No in-state facility would take him, and they were legally barred from seeking help out of state. The tools they needed were off-limits. And they were terrified—terrified to act, terrified not to.

That's the real crisis.

HB 3835 aims to prevent abuse—and I support that. But we also need to be honest: our existing laws already make caregivers and professionals so afraid of crossing a line that they often freeze when children need them most. This bill must not reinforce that fear. It should empower responsible intervention while setting boundaries for genuine misconduct.

So yes—I support HB 3835. But let's be clear about its purpose. This is not just a law to protect children from bad actors. It should also protect good people who are doing their best in impossible situations. The clearer and more practical we make this bill, the better it will serve both aims.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,