

**Written Testimony addressed to the  
Education and Cultural Affairs Committee in support of LD 1373**

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To Representative Michael Brennan, Chair, and Representative Mattie Daughtry:

We are submitting written testimony on behalf of ourselves and our community here in Freeport and more broadly across Maine in support of the LD 1373 legislation. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1373, ***Maine's Keeping All Students Safe Act***, which would greatly improve the quality of life and experience in educational settings for all young Mainers statewide.

We are deeply concerned about the high use of and lifelong impact of restraint & seclusion (R&S) in our schools. Our daughter, age 6, has been fortunate never – to our knowledge – to have been restrained or held in seclusion at Morse Street School, where she is now a 1<sup>st</sup> grader. Yet, we are aware that **statistically our daughter is highly likely to be subjected to R&S treatment systemically**, as she is at higher risk than some as an autistic and gifted child with partial hearing loss.

Behavioral impulse control can be hard to maintain for many young children, and for teenagers as well, when presented with expectations that are difficult for them to understand and/ or to meet. Yet, the outcomes driven by R&S, as a measure used largely to ensure the safety of others (often in the face of out-of-control behaviors exhibited by kids in fight or flight mode), are dire for our kids and our country.

If you have not yet invested two hours to watch (again) the PBS documentary, ***The Kids We Lose***, we hope you and your fellow committee members will do so in advance of the public hearing. We believe in the collaborative and proactive solutions (CPS) methodology espoused by Dr. Ross Greene (outside of the film), and we believe that Maine can put an end to the use of R&S in our beautiful state. It is unacceptable that **Maine schools restrain more children per capita than any other state in the nation and seclude children at the second highest rate in the nation.**

COVID-19 has added extreme complexity and cost to serving students in our schools. As we look forward to emerging stronger from the pandemic, LD 1373 would go a long way towards protecting our most vulnerable students by enforcing data collection and reporting – both to the legislature and to the agencies tasked with oversight of our education system.

Thank you for your deep and careful consideration of this legislation.

Emily & Gregg Carville