

Jessica Greenberg
Thorndike

130th Legislature of the State of Maine
Committee On Education and Cultural Affairs
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 25, 2021

Re: No. 1373, H.P. 1007

Testimony of Jessica Greenberg regarding
An Act To Keep All Maine Students Safe by Restricting the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in
Schools

Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for taking the time to consider the restriction of seclusion and restraints. I agree with the proposed sections of this bill regarding data collection and reporting. I think this will be extremely useful in increasing accountability and awareness regarding the use of seclusion and restraints in our schools.

As a school psychologist that has worked with severely aggressive children I understand that in certain incidents, physical restraints and seclusion can be needed in order to maintain the safety and wellbeing of students and educational staff.

I have had the unfortune involvemt of witnessing and patriating in the physical restraint and seclusions of students and have observed and experienced the high level of stress that can results in these incidents to all of the parties involved. Implementing restraints during these times, were necessary to ensure the safety of the student being retrained, staff and children in the vicinity. Having clear guidelines, in reducing unlawful restraints and seclusion.

I am writing to respectfully to request that the committee consider providing further guidance on how educators should respond in situations where students are an acute danger to themselves or others. Having this guidance will likely limit future litigation and potential corresponding costs to districts and communities. It is recommended that the committee delay making a decision regarding this bill until additional specifications regarding the use of allowable physically restraints is provided.

Respectfully,

Jessica L. Greenberg
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