

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for funding LD 1376, "An Act To Direct the Department of Education To Amend Its Rules To Ensure That Physical Restraint and Seclusion Policies Are Followed for Special Education Students and Make Biennial Reports on the Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion."

This bill is currently on the Special Appropriations Table, waiting to be funded and passed into law. There are many reasons why you should support funding this bill immediately. As you can see, I have shared the links to the documents mentioned below, so please take a moment and look at the statistics and reports of how many times students have been restrained or secluded in the state of Maine:

[1] <https://drme.org/assets/brochures/CH33.Report.FINAL.2019.pdf>

[2] <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/safeschools/restraint>

I am actually from another state (in other words, I currently live in the state of New York) and I, myself, have experienced restraint and seclusion as a child. As long as I can remember, I was traumatized while being restrained in seclusion rooms at some schools in the past, which led to the negative impact on not only myself but also my family.

That is to say, I find restraint and seclusion dangerous, which can cause many students pain, such as trauma, especially in Maine schools.

Continuing to not address this issue is simply wrong. If funded, this bill will:

- Provide the department the authority to act when the district relies heavily on restraints and seclusion through a technical education and compliance plan method
- Provide schools the tools necessary to prevent restraint and seclusion through more technical assistance and professional development opportunities
- Provide the legislature the information it needs to provide adequate oversight by requiring a biennial report to the Education Committee and the Governor

The children of Maine need you to fund this bill, so I urge you to please vote to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Truly,
Jennifer (Mina) Han

[Dear Mr. Baker,

Sorry for the late response. Yes, I am referring to LD 1373, so, as I have said earlier, I have sent the email (which shares the links to the Maine Department of Education documents) to the Maine State Legislature in support of funding the LD 1373 (which will hopefully make a difference by restricting restraint and seclusion from schools in Maine).

I appreciate you reaching out to me today. And I look forward to hearing from your response as well.

Best Regards,
Jennifer (Mina) Han]