

Melissa Hodgkin
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LD1373

May 3, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on the bill restricting the use of restraints. I have a child who has been restrained at school, during times of his rage and severe frustration. He was a very big child who could hurt himself or others. He was blessed to be at the Collaborative school where they have staff who are trained and who know how to safely use holds and restraints in a way to protect the child and others around. It was always done as a last resort. It was also communicated to me as a parent when it had been done. They also were able to talk with my son after the situation had been resolved and work through what had happened and why.

I know the issue of restraining children is a tough one, but there are times when it is needed. Please do not just get rid of the ability for staff to help deescalate a student. With guidelines and training it can be used safely, when it is needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Hodgkin,
Parent