

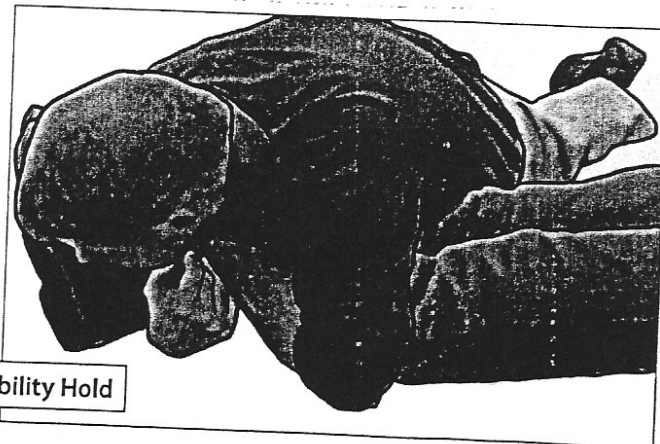
Forward Transport



Reverse Transport



Leg Wrap



With Seated Stability Hold

Susan Quinn
Portland

My name is Susan Quinn. I am guardian to my six-year-old grandson and we live in the Portland school district. I am writing today because I am concerned about the high use of restraint and seclusion in our schools and ask that you to PASS LD 1373, Maine's Keeping All Students Safe Act

My grandson came to live with me when he was two. His challenges stem from a significant history of trauma and he struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Adjustment Disorder, ADHD and Sensory Processing Disorder. Our experience with Portland Schools began when he entered kindergarten in 2019. He was enrolled in the Breathe Program at Rowe School, a program purportedly designed for children with behavioral challenges, and Portland staff convinced me that my grandson was, "a perfect candidate for the program." On his first day of kindergarten he was 4 years old and weighed approximately 40 pounds. From September 2019 through COVID shutdown in March 2020 (111 school days), he was restrained/secluded 37 times. Restraints included being dragged backwards into a seclusion room and being held down by two adults. When I asked to be shown how he was being handled, I was given a diagram of holds which used on children (see attachment). His kindergarten experience only served to compound his trauma.

Restraints and seclusions are harmful and traumatizing practices that do not improve behaviors. They can have a lasting impact on the student and all involved. Restraints and seclusions are both dangerous and lead to increased negative behaviors. Students can be injured and experience lasting trauma. Often more challenging and dangerous behaviors emerge after use of these interventions. I implore you to PASS LD 1373 to prevent further emotional and physical harm to our children.

Sincerely,
Susan Quinn