



# Commemorating 40 Years Of Disability Advocacy 1973-2013

May 6, 2013

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Education & the Workforce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Education & the Workforce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller,

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, we write to ask for your leadership to protect the safety of children in our schools today.

The Keeping All Students Safe Act will establish national minimum standards for the use of restraint and seclusion in schools, strengthening protections in every state and ensuring the safety of all students and school personnel. The bills will ensure that restraint and seclusion are used only in emergencies threatening physical safety. The bills also promote a shift toward preventing problematic behavior through the use of de-escalation techniques, conflict management and evidence-based positive behavioral interventions and supports. This shift of focus will help school personnel understand the needs of their students and safely address the source of challenging behaviors – a better result for everyone in the classroom.

The use of restraint and seclusion is widespread. Data from the U.S. Department of Education shows that nearly 40,000 students were physically restrained during the 2009-2010 school year, with about 70% of those students being students with disabilities. Our nation's children deserve better. Legislation to protect our nation's children has been languishing for the past four years. Our organizations want to work with the Education and Workforce Committee to move restraint and seclusion legislation forward NOW. We need more than the current patchwork of state laws to ensure that every child is afforded protection.

We applaud you for your efforts and leadership. We look forward to working with you on this important issue. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,  
ACCSES  
Adaptive Physical Activity Council  
ADHD Aware  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autism National Committee

Autism Speaks  
 Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
 Brain Injury Association of America  
 Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
 Conference of Educational Administrators for Schools and Programs for the Deaf  
 Council for Exceptional Children  
 Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc  
 Council for Learning Disabilities  
 Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation  
 Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
 Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children  
 Easter Seals  
 Epilepsy Foundation  
 Family Voices  
 Health and Disability Advocates  
 Higher Education Consortium on Special Education  
 IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinator Association  
 Institute for Education Leadership  
 Inter/National Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation  
 Learning Disabilities Association of America  
 Lutheran Services in America Disability Network  
 Mental Health America  
 National Alliance on Mental Illness  
 National association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
 National Association of School Psychologists  
 National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
 National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
 National Center for Learning Disabilities  
 National Council on Independent Living  
 National Disability Rights Network  
 National Down Syndrome Congress  
 National Down Syndrome Society  
 National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
 National Health Law Project  
 National PTA  
 National Rehabilitation Association  
 Research Institute for Independent Living  
 School Social Work Association of America  
 Teacher Education Division of the Council on Exceptional Children  
 The Advocacy Institute  
 The Arc of the United States  
 Tourette Syndrome Association  
 Union for Reform Judaism  
 United Cerebral Palsy

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of nearly 100 national consumer, advocacy, provider and professional organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. CCD has worked to achieve federal legislation and regulations that assure that the 54 million children and adults with disabilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of society. Approximately 50 national organizations participate in the CCD Education Task Force. For additional information, please contact:

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