



Commemorating 40 Years Of Disability Advocacy 1973-2013

May 13, 2013

The Honorable George Miller
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregg Harper
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller and Representative Harper,

We write today on behalf of the Education Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Keeping All Students Safe Act. In a letter dated May 6, 2013, fifty-six national organizations expressed their support for the bill ([http://c-c-d.org/task_forces/education/CCD Letter on Keeping All Students Safe Act 562013.pdf](http://c-c-d.org/task_forces/education/CCD_Letter_on_Keeping_All_Students_Safe_Act_562013.pdf)), and urged the Education and Workforce Committee to move the legislation toward passage now.

As you are aware, 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.

We commend you for your leadership, and look forward to continuing to work with you to enact the bill into law.

Sincerely,

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The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of over 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.