



November 13, 2018

The Honorable Don Beyer  
United States House of Representatives  
1119 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
United States Senate  
136 Hart Senator Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Keeping All Students Safe Act

Dear Representative Beyer and Senator Murphy:

The undersigned members of The Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Interventions, and Seclusion (APRAIS) write to express our strong support for the introduction of the *Keeping All Students Safe Act*. We appreciate your leadership in proposing legislation that prohibits seclusion and seeks to prevent and limit the use of restraint in schools. This bill, if enacted, would considerably strengthen protections in every state and ensure the safety of all students and school personnel.

APRAIS was established by leading education, research, and advocacy organizations with a common goal: to eliminate the use of dangerous and dehumanizing practices as a means of managing challenging behavior. Comprised of over 25 civil rights and disability advocacy organizations at both the national and state levels, APRAIS believes that all children should grow up without the fear that these forms of behavior management techniques could be used on them, their siblings, or their friends.

Restraint and seclusion are dangerous practices that cause students trauma and have resulted in injury, and even death. School personnel can also be injured when imposing restraint and seclusion. Though the use of restraint and seclusion is widespread, national data indicates that students with disabilities are roughly 20 times more likely than their peers without disabilities to be restrained and/or secluded. *All* of our nation's students deserve better.

APRAIS appreciates that the *Keeping All Students Safe Act* will prohibit seclusion and seek to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint. The bill also promotes a shift toward preventing problematic behavior through use of de-escalation techniques, conflict management, and evidence-based positive behavioral interventions and supports. This improved focus will help school personnel understand the needs of their students and safely address the source of their behaviors – a better result for everyone in our nation's schools.

We applaud your leadership in authoring and promoting the *Keeping All Students Safe Act*. We look forward to working with you and your staff to help pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

The Arc  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self-Advocacy Network  
Center for Public Representation  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Funds  
Family Alliance to Stop Abuse and Neglect  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Autism Association  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
Parent to Parent USA  
Respectability Law Center  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  
TASH

cc: The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
The Honorable Bobby Scott  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
The Honorable Patty Murray