



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

November 16, 2020

Dear Rep. Beyer, Rep. McEachin, Chair Scott, Senator Murphy, and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Education Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), we write in support of the Keeping All Students Safe Act (KASSA) and thank you for your leadership in introducing a bill designed to protect the safety of children in our schools today.

The CCD has advocated for many years that federal legislation is needed to establish national minimum standards to prohibit the use of seclusion and prevent the use of restraint in schools. Restraint and seclusion are dangerous practices that continue to cause children trauma, injury, and death. We need more than the current patchwork of state laws to ensure that every child is afforded protection. KASSA will strengthen protections in every state and ensure the safety of all students and school personnel.

Unfortunately, the use of restraint and seclusion is widespread. Data from the U.S. Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection continues to show that most students restrained and secluded were students with disabilities, who comprised 13 percent of all students enrolled, yet represented 80 percent of all students physically restrained, and 77 percent of all students secluded. We also know that Black students with disabilities are disproportionately secluded and restrained.ⁱ Our nation's children deserve better.

These practices, in addition to being harmful and unnecessary, are costly. In 2018, research on a single behavioral healthcare facility showed that trauma-informed, less restrictive alternatives provided safer treatment for individuals with a variety of disabilities and saved over \$16 million in lost staff time expenses, turnover costs, and workers compensation policy costs.ⁱⁱ

Our organizations want to work with Congress to move KASSA forward. The legislation is designed to protect our nation's school children from seclusion and unnecessary use of restraint and to help states provide districts with resources and training for school personnel. With your leadership, the bill can be seriously considered.

CCD thanks you for your commitment to students with disabilities through KASSA. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

American Physical Therapy Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autism Society of America
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America

Center for Public Representation
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
CommunicationFIRST
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Easterseals
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
Learning Disabilities Association of America
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 Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
RespectAbility
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States
The National PTA

cc: Ranking Member Virginia Foxx, U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman Lamar Alexander, U.S. Senate

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The Education Task Force of CCD monitors federal legislation and regulations that address the educational needs of children and youth with disabilities and their families, including regulatory efforts under federal law such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Education Task Force advocates for high expectations for children with disabilities under these and other laws.

www.c-c-d.org

ⁱ Civil Rights Data Collection, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education (2020) at: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/restraint-and-seclusion.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

ⁱⁱ Craig, J., Sanders, K., Evaluation of a Program Model for Minimizing Restraint and Seclusion, (2018) at: https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1007/s41252-018-0076-2?author_access_token=RuZcKbb97PTjYe3GXxTJ2_e4RwiQNchNBiy7wbcMAY576vY1zy1Cz24BL9xsV7xYTjTOEri30IjhjSM1NV9kaWDo3usQ66oJrA1jli3cWWtj8ydVGA2qlv4j1XzFm0Uicm0tF6cNEBWORUmPvf7cg%3D%3D