



The Keeping All Students Safe Act

Protecting Students with Disabilities from the Dangers of Seclusion and Restraint

Every child should be safe and protected while in school. Sadly, that is not always the case. A [2009 investigation](#) by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found hundreds of incidents of child abuse, some resulting in death, due to the use of seclusion and restraint practices in school. GAO also found seclusion and restraint practices were used disproportionately on children with disabilities and children of color.

More recently, data analyzed by [Education Week](#) found that nearly 70,000 students with disabilities were restrained or secluded in a single school year. Although many states are taking stronger actions to [pass laws](#) prohibiting seclusion and limiting restraint, at least 11 states have no policy protecting children from these practices. In many states, parents are never even notified their child is placed in seclusion or had restraint imposed.

The *Keeping All Students Safe Act*, introduced by Senators Chris Murphy and Patty Murray, as well as Reps. Bobby Scott (VA-03) and Don Beyer (VA-08), would make it illegal for any school receiving federal funds to seclude a child. The bill would also prohibit schools from physically restraining children, except when necessary to protect students and staff. Lastly, the bill would better equip school personnel with the training they need to address challenging behavior with evidence-based proactive strategies.

More specifically, the *Keeping All Students Safe Act* would:

Establish minimum safety standards in schools by:

- Prohibiting seclusion, mechanical restraints, chemical restraints, physical restraint that restricts breathing or is life threatening, and any form of aversive behavioral interventions;
- Requiring certification of staff conducting physical restraint that meets the minimum standards;
- Prohibiting physical restraint as a planned intervention; and
- Requiring parental notification and follow-up meetings if a physical restraint occurs.

Support states to provide training to better ensure students' safety and to establish monitoring and enforcement systems by:

- Requiring each state to have its own policies, procedures, monitoring, and enforcement systems in place to meet the minimum standards within two years of the law's enactment;
- Allowing states to apply for competitive grants for support in establishing, implementing, and enforcing the policies and procedures required by the law; and
- Improving state and local capacity to analyze the data and improving school climate and culture.

Increase transparency, oversight, and enforcement to prevent future abuse and death by:

- Requiring states to collect and report data on the use of seclusion and restraint annually;
- Making data about restraint and seclusion publicly available while protecting student privacy, including data on the number of incidents, injuries, cases of death, and the demographic breakdown.