

### Sample Email:

Please cosponsor the Keeping All Students Safe Act, S. 2036 and H.R. 1893 and prevent the use of restraint and seclusion in school. House and Senate Testimony and a GAO study have found that children are killed, injured, and traumatized by restraint and seclusion. They include a teenager who hung himself while his teacher sat outside the seclusion room; a child suffocated in restraint after he tried to get lunch; and many others. These dangerous procedures are often used when no one is at risk of harm. The most recent data has accounted for nearly 111,000 students subjected to restraint and seclusion in 2011-12, disproportionately students with disabilities and minorities. The Keeping All Students Safe Act, S. 2036 and H.R. 1893, will forbid the use of restraint except in emergencies threatening physical safety. Both will prevent non-emergency seclusion. Both bills require schools to notify parents on the same day. Fewer than half the states prohibit non-emergency use of restraint and seclusion. Parents must be informed promptly to seek medical care, but fewer than half of the states require parental notification for all students. The Keeping All Students Safe Act will promote a shift towards positive behavioral interventions and keep students and staff safe. Please cosponsor S. 2036 and H.R. 1893.

### Optional SAMPLE TALKING POINTS or EMAIL

- A Government Accountability Office (GAO) [report](#) found that 20 students have died in seclusion; countless others have been injured and traumatized. One young teen [hung himself](#) in a seclusion room while staff sat outside the locked door; a seven year old died face down in physical restraint; and a young teen was [suffocated face down](#) in restraint by his teacher twice his size. Recent reports indicate that the shoes of an 8 year old with Down Syndrome were [duct-taped](#) so tightly that she could not walk and her ankles were bruised; a 10 year old with autism was [pinned face down](#) after an upset over a puzzle; and a child with Cerebral Palsy severed her finger when she was confined in seclusion. Parents often do not learn about restraint or seclusion, or learn long after they have occurred.
- The most recent [data](#) has shown that at least 70,000 students were subjected to physical restraint; 37,000, to isolated seclusion; and nearly 4,000 to mechanical restraint, for a near total of 111,000 in 2011-12. Students with disabilities make up 12% of all students but 75% of those physically restrained and 58% of those secluded. African-American students make up 19% of students with disabilities but 36% of those who were mechanically restrained.
- **Both Congressional bills, S. 2036 and H.R. 1893, will forbid the use of restraint except in emergencies threatening physical safety.** Both seek to prevent non-emergency seclusion: the House bill, by limiting it to threats of physical harm; the Senate, by banning it. Both bills require schools to notify parents on the same day. Prompt notification enables parents to seek medical care for concussions or other injuries and to work with schools to prevent recurrences. Both bills ban restraints that impede breathing, and dangerous mechanical and chemical restraints. The bills will enhance public oversight by requiring data reporting and collection.
- There are more effective ways to manage challenging behavior. The Keeping All Students Safe Act will shift schools towards preventing these behaviors through evidence-based positive behavioral interventions and supports. The use of positive supports and interventions has been shown to greatly diminish and even eliminate the need to use restraint and seclusion. For example, the Centennial School in Pennsylvania cut restraint and seclusion use from over 1,000 occurrences per year to less than ten through the use of positive intervention plans.
- Many [states](#) don't adequately protect all students from restraint and seclusion. Too many states allow their use when no one is in danger. Only 14 states restrict restraint to dangers threatening safety emergencies for all children; only 18, for children with disabilities. Only one state bans seclusion of all children; four states ban seclusion of children with disabilities, and another ten states limit seclusion to emergencies involving physical safety. Only 20 states require parents of all children be informed of restraint and seclusion use. Roughly half of all states allow restraints that impede breathing.