



National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

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March 2, 2010

Dear Representative:

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), which represents the state directors of special education in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Bureau of Indian Education, the Department of Defense Education Agency, the federal territories and the Freely Associated States, urges you to vote in favor of H.R. 4247, the "Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act," when it comes to the House floor for a vote this week and urges you to vote against any amendments that might be offered.

NASDSE strongly supports this legislation as it was voted out of the Education and Labor Committee. It represents a carefully crafted compromise that involved the work of both education and disability organizations, yet recognizes the urgent need to ensure that children and school personnel are safe in schools.

Our members believe that this is important legislation that will help schools train personnel in approaches such as schoolwide positive behavior supports, which have been proven effective in reducing aggressive behavior in schools. In addition, this bill will provide documentation for incidences so that school personnel will have a better understanding of what triggers such incidences and can be better prepared to take steps to avoid them.

NASDSE firmly believes that it is important to keep language regarding the use of seclusion and/or restraints out of individualized education programs (IEPs) except in the rarest of circumstances as described in the Committee Report (111-417).

NASDSE hopes that you will support this important piece of legislation. Please feel free to contact NASDSE's director of government relations, Nancy Reder, at nancy.reder@nasdse.org or at (703) 519-3800, ext. 334 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D.
Executive Director