



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877

December 15, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: HR 4247 – Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act

Dear Chairman Miller:

American Humane supports HR 4247, the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act, which would establish the first federal standards to protect students from misuse of restraint and seclusion and ensure the safety of everyone in the classroom. It would apply to public schools, private schools and preschools receiving federal education support.

American Humane is a national, nonpartisan membership organization that was founded in 1877 to protect the welfare of children and animals. Our support for the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act reflects an over 100-year history of progressively advocating at the federal, state and local levels for laws that protect children and animals from abuse and neglect.

As you know, a recent GAO report found hundreds of allegations that schoolchildren have been abused, and some even died, as a result of the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion in classrooms. Yet unlike in hospitals, and other medical and community-based facilities that receive federal funding, there are currently no federal policies that prevent the misuse of restraint and seclusion in schools. HR 4247 will remedy that problem and protect all children in schools from harmful uses of restraint and seclusion.

Thank you for your leadership on such an important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you. Please do not hesitate to contact Patty Chávez, Legislative Analyst, if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Allie Phillips, J.D.
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