



**Equity, Opportunity and Inclusion for People
with Disabilities since 1975.**

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The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of TASH and the Executive Board of Directors, I am writing to express support for H.R. 911, the "Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009".

TASH is an international grassroots leader in advancing inclusive communities through research, education and advocacy, and a leader of the Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Interventions and Seclusion (APRAIS). Human rights and inclusion for people with the most significant disabilities and support needs -- those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization -- are the foundation of our activism. TASH is deeply concerned about and sensitive to the use of restraint and seclusion, and other aversive interventions used for the behavior modification of children. There is growing documentation of children in residential and non-residential public and private schools, recreational facilities, and correctional facilities who are brought to the ground and straddled, and strapped or tied in chairs and beds as a means of behavior modification. They are blindfolded, slapped and pinched, sprayed in the face with cold water, deprived of food, and secluded in locked rooms for hours at a time. What many fail to realize is the patchwork of state regulation that allow such interventions.

H.R. 911 is a first step to end the deliberate use of pain, humiliation, exclusion, and immobilization commonly employed by those administering services for students in residential programs and other daily life settings. We applaud the committee for its work and consideration of this important bill. We look forward to continuing to work with you to protect all students, particularly those with significant disabilities and support needs, from unconscionable treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Trader".

Barbara Trader
Executive Director

TASH is an international grassroots organization to advance inclusive communities through research, education and advocacy. TASH members are people with disabilities, family members, fellow citizens, advocates and professionals working together to create change and build capacity so that all people, no matter their perceived level of disability, are included and involved in all aspects of society.