



December 28, 2009

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

CHAIRPERSON
Dale Mueller
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Ann Arneill-Py, PhD

Dear Chairman Miller:

**Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act H.R. 4247:
Support**

On behalf of the California Mental Health Planning Council, I am writing in support of H.R. 4247, the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act.

Research shows that restraint and seclusion practices are ineffective, often abusive, and potentially deadly. Use of these techniques is particularly prevalent among children with disabilities and mental health disorders. The Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act recognizes and seeks to eliminate the dangers associated with restraint and seclusion practices and proposes, instead, the adoption of school-wide Positive Behavior Support (PBS); a proven alternative approach to supporting students who experience challenging behaviors in school settings.

School-wide PBS is an effective, evidence-based approach to promoting a learning-friendly school climate that is beneficial for students and school staff alike. School-wide PBS significantly reduces discipline problems and addresses the social and emotional needs of all students, while providing school personnel with the tools necessary to aid students who demonstrate challenging behavior problems. We applaud your goals of reducing unnecessary restraint and seclusion practices, improving school climate, and encouraging student success through the implementation of school-wide PBS.

Thank you for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Mueller".

Dale Mueller
Chairperson