

GOLD COAST  
DOWN SYNDROME  
ORGANIZATION, INC.

The Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization is writing in support of the legislation being proposed that would regulate the use of restraints and seclusion on students in our schools. There is currently no federal law that regulates the use of restraint and seclusion. The proposed legislation would prevent and reduce inappropriate restraint and seclusion by establishing minimum safety standards in schools, similar to protections already in place in hospitals and non-medical community-based facilities.

The Governmental Accounting Office found hundreds of allegations that children have been abused, and some even died, as a result of misuses of restraint and seclusion in public and private schools, often at the hands of untrained staff. These interventions are used disproportionately on children with disabilities. Unlike in hospitals and other facilities that receive federal funding, there are no federal laws that address how and when restraint or seclusion can be used on this vulnerable population.

Our children are counting on your support.

Sincerely,

*Sue Davis-Killian*

Sue Davis-Killian  
President  
Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization