



YACHAD

NATIONAL JEWISH COUNCIL FOR DISABILITIES

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March 2, 2010

Chairman George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller, Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers:


We write to you on behalf of The National Jewish Council for Disabilities, an agency of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization, to express our support for **H.R. 4247- Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act**.

The National Jewish Council for Disabilities serves as a national resource center for schools and families who have children with special needs. Among other services, we provide advanced training for educators and mental health professionals working in schools.

Restraint and seclusion as disciplinary measures are neither appropriate nor effective interventions for children. Such measures can result in both long term physical and mental harm to students. To allow such behavior by professionals in U.S. schools is simply unconscionable, and must not be allowed.

We support this legislation and applaud your leadership in protecting our children, especially our most vulnerable children with disabilities; and your expectation of higher standards for our schools and their personnel.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeffrey Lichtman
National Director