

Using seclusion and restraint to control children is extremely harmful to each and every child. It has been well known for at least two decades that seclusion and restraint are extremely traumatizing to children! There are numerous studies on the harms of S/R and NOT ONE study on how it is helpful.

I will attach a list of PEER REVIEWED – evidence based - empirical articles (not someone's opinion, but facts) that show how damaging and dangerous seclusion and restraint is to children and adolescents.

I request that both representatives who are sponsoring these bills take the time to read all of the articles listed below. In addition, learn how de-escalation techniques are the only way to go in these situations. If a facility ends up restraining or secluding a child, it is a treatment failure! It is easier and faster to use S/R for lazy professionals, and that is why you will see some supporting this. However, it is currently **NOT EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE** and is so damaging to a child that they will likely end up with CPTSD. ***Is this how we want our children to be treated?***

I am studying the damages of seclusion and restraint for my doctoral dissertation. I am doing this because my own sweet little 7-year-old child was repeatedly dragged into the seclusion room closet by an abusive 'behavioral specialist' teacher only because my child was too anxious to do her math – in first grade! There was no danger to herself or anyone else. She has never been violent. She simply would not do her math or schoolwork at times. It went on for almost 1.5 years, several times per week. My child suffered severe UTI's from being left in the seclusion room closet for hours on end. She was diagnosed with severe CPTSD! This teacher, who caused her irreparable harm, was able to get away with this because at the time there were NO mandatory reporting laws regarding S/R! After ten years of therapy, my child will never get over what happened. It damaged her trust in adults, and she has challenges to this day because of the abuse that S/R caused her. I will never stop fighting for children to be treated kindly and respectfully in our facilities and schools because I have seen firsthand how damaging it is.

In 2009 the Government Accountability Office put out a study on how dangerous S/R is is!

"GAO found no federal laws restricting the use of seclusion and restraints in public and private schools and widely divergent laws at the state level. Although GAO could not determine whether allegations were widespread, GAO did find hundreds of cases of alleged abuse and death related to the use of these methods on school children during the past two decades. Examples of these cases include a 7 year old purportedly dying after being held face down for hours by school staff, 5

year olds allegedly being tied to chairs with bungee cords and duct tape by their teacher and suffering broken arms and bloody noses, and a 13 year old reportedly hanging himself in a seclusion room after prolonged confinement. Although GAO continues to receive new allegations from parents and advocacy groups, GAO could not find a single Web site, federal agency, or other entity that collects information on the use of these methods or the extent of their alleged abuse. I would ask that both sponsors and anyone opposing S/R consider helping to bring federal legislation on this subject before more children are killed.”

Here is a link to the Government Accountability Office report -
<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-09-719t.pdf>

75% of all secluded and restrained are disabled children! This means that ¾ of all secluded and restrained children were dragged into seclusion rooms or restrained due behavior that comes from their disability - This is a civil and human rights issue!

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT – EMPIRACLE EVIDENCE THAT SHOWS HARM AND DANGER

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