



Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

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*"To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society
and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities"*

Senate Education Committee

March 8, 2012

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity of providing written testimony regarding HB 2444, the Freedom from Unsafe Restraint and Seclusion in public schools Act.

The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities is in support of House Bill 2444 and encourages you to pass the bill favorably out of committee.

HB2444 takes the current voluntary guidelines established by the Kansas Department on Education and puts it into law or requires those schools currently NOT following these guidelines to now take appropriate action to safeguard children and the teachers working with them (through proper training.)

Kansas needs a law that will that will provide safety for children if restraint and/or seclusion rooms are going to be used.

- Safety in terms of proper training and reporting for any school employee who has received appropriate training.
- Safety in terms of laws around the use of restraint and seclusion rooms that prevent it from becoming abusive or for convenience of the school employee.
- Safety in terms of providing parents/guardians a report on what has happened to their child while at school to allow for questions and discussion for the improved educational experience of the child.

KCDD would also bring to your attention that the Kansas Department of Education has determined that there is no fiscal impact to providing this safety to our Kansas children.

Our Council urges you to pass this bill favorably out of committee. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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