

## House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

February 6, 2017

### Testimony concerning expanding the use of mechanical restraints

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to this bill. My name is Brad Linnenkamp. I am a resident of Lawrence, Kansas and a staff member of the Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas. This organization represents the voices of 700+ Kansans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Many of us have experienced the mechanical restraints you are discussing and our position is very clear. The compromise reached in 2015-2016 by the ESI Task Force was the result of thoughtful work involving a number of individuals. Many self-advocates provided information concerning the use of restraints and their impact on our lives. None of those effects were positive, however, the compromise reached by the Task Force represented the best possible solution.

Opening up the use of mechanical restraints to a school employee who happens to be a security officer without adequate training and effective oversight is a nightmare waiting to happen. As a student with mobility limitations, had I been incorrectly restrained during my schooling, the outcome could have been both painful and tragic. Our experiences should speak to the fact that these actions cannot be taken lightly. Please don't undo what many people came together and agreed upon was the best way to support students with disabilities.