

Action Alert from National APSE 1/20/2010

National Call-In Day: Prevent Harmful Seclusion and Restraint

Dear APSE Members,

As some of you may already be aware, there has been increasing concern regarding the use of seclusion and restraint within schools. Seclusion and restraint has sadly resulted in abuse and sometimes even death of students. Given its harmful nature, a new piece of legislation has been introduced by Representatives George Miller (D-CA) and Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA) and Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) to address issues surrounding seclusion and restraint.

The *Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act* (H.R. 4247/S.2860), which was introduced last month, would provide students with and without disabilities vital protections against abuse in schools. APSE is asking its members to join the National Call-In Day on Thursday, January 21st to tell your members of Congress to support H.R. 4247/S.2860.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please call this coming Thursday and encourage your friends, networks, constituents, family and coworkers to participate by dialing the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your Congressional Representative and Senators. To find out names of your US Senators and Representative, go to www.congress.org.

Once your call is put through to the appropriate office, ask to speak to the person working on education issues and identify yourself as a constituent and name the organization that you represent.

Here are some sample scripts to help you when you call:

Message: "I am calling to urge (Senator ____) to cosponsor S.2860, legislation preventing harmful use of restraint and seclusion in schools."

Message: "I am calling to urge (Representative ____) to cosponsor HR 4247, legislation preventing harmful use of restraint and seclusion in schools."

If you have a personal story of why you feel this legislation is important, feel free to share it with the staff member. A personal touch is often times very helpful in getting across the "real-life" impact a particular piece of legislation may have.

APSE thanks you for all your advocacy efforts. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Birmingham, Public Policy Associate – Stephanie@apse.org.

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