

William Hamm
Sebago

I am maternal grandfather and legal guardian of my grandson who is Autistic with limited verbal skills. He attends day treatment at the Center for Autism and Developmental Disorders. His special education plan is overseen by the local school district and detailed plans and contingencies are laid out in his IEP. That plan is regularly review adapted and approved jointly with us, the school district, and the staff at day treatment. Our first concern about this proposed bill is safety. Our student's safety, the other students, and staff present. We have found a two-person standing stability hold to be quite insufficient and dangerous. The various staff members: LCWS, Teachers, Ed Techs, school Nurse, and administrators that are responsible for keeping our student safe are credentialed, qualified, and well trained to do so. The current regulations are adhered to exhaustively. Any incident is by the end of the day, a report written, submitted, and share and signed off by us, at minimal verbally over the phone. Weekly or more often if deem needed, the staff meet to review all incidents, and recommendations are considered for any improvements that would help. If there are changes to the IEP, they are brought to appropriate process. Eliminating tools used would not only be dangerous, but also would undo progress. As some Autists are, our student is hyper/ hypo sensitive to tactile simulation. The slightest touch can touch off behaviors, while at times, compression is a needed treatment. During certain dysregulations, our students need floor restraints, at others he needs to be in stimulus limited seclusion. The measures may be too much for neurologically normal students in mainstream schools but are needed for safe effective treatment of our student, in his present setting.