

Janice Walker
The Center of Autism and Developmental Disorders.

Good afternoon Committee Members,

As the mother of a son with the complex diagnosis of Autism, I am compelled to ask for a more thorough consideration of the law governing restraint and seclusion. My son attends a private program staffed by licensed professionals including OT, Speech Paths., social skills acquisition, BCBA's, Psychiatry and special educators who are exceptionally trained, credentialed experts.

Banning restraints and seclusion's is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Ethan can have infrequent, intense, very serious aggressions. To keep my son, his staff and other students safe, restraints have been carried out by extremely experienced, experts. Ethan knows that he can calm and return to work and be regulated once he is safely helped to cope if he should become dangerous.

In certain cases, and ONLY when performed by trained, supervised and caring professionals restraints are the difference in calming and remaining in programming versus harming themselves and others. Often seriously.

My son attended a regular education school and was secluded by untrained school staff and was traumatized. This is why I must stress the needs for more solutions and more dialogue to create a system that safely cares for our children that is carefully crafted and meets each individual situation with a positive outcome.