

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann & members of the Education Committee:

I am a resident of Newtown, a parent of a child with autism, and a professional working with people with disabilities. I am writing in support of HB 5347. However, for the state to efficiently and effectively summarize the data generated, this legislation could be even more beneficial if either additional information was provided to the state and/or if a form were provided by the state for school districts to utilize when sending their district information in each year. For example, in addition to stating whether or not an emergency procedure was utilized and if it was in keeping with the a student's IEP, it may be useful for the state to obtain information such as:

Student information regarding age, disability, and location of emergency procedure

Type of procedure, i.e., seclusion, protective hold, combination of strategies

Duration of protective hold or seclusion

Where the school personnel implementing the procedure trained in physical management strategies within the last 12 months?

Where the parents notified as per state guidelines?

If the procedure was an emergency procedure rather than on a student's IEP, was a plan devised and added to the IEP after the event?

While seclusion, time out, and protective holds can sometimes be necessary when working with children with significant disabilities, ensuring that the state has sufficient data to understand what is happening in our schools is essential to ensure the safety of both our children and school district personnel.

Yours truly,

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