



330 Main Street – Third Floor - Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860.548.1747 Fax: 860.541.6484
www.conncase.org

**Testimony of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education
(ConnCASE)
Raised Bill No. 1060
*An Act Concerning the Use of Restraint and Seclusion in Schools***

Please accept this written testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education (ConnCASE), regarding Senate Bill No. 1060, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS.

We fundamentally agree with the statement of purpose of this bill: To protect students by preventing the use of physical restraint or seclusion for anything other than emergency situations and we are supportive of any and all efforts that promote the teaching of self-regulation strategies and the use of positive behavior supports in schools. We do not support the language of Section 1.(5)(e) which limits the instance of physical restraint or seclusion “not to exceed the lesser of fifteen minutes or one minute per age of the student”. It is our collective experience that in some instances the chronological age of the child holds little relevance to the emergent nature of a situation and that creation of an artificial ceiling of duration for restraint or seclusion increases the likelihood of injury for the student, staff or both. Instead, we recommend that the instance of restraint or seclusion not exceed fifteen minutes but that duration longer than fifteen minutes requires administrative approval.

We are in support of Section 1. (5)(c) banning the use “prone physical restraint or a life-threatening physical restraint” . The dangers of prone physical restraint are well-documented and contrary to all known practice standards. We do recommend that the term “prone position” or lying face down be distinguished from “supine” or lying on his/her back. This distinction is important given that physical restraint using a supine hold is in keeping with professional standards.

Michael Regan, Ph.D.
President, Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education
Cooperative Educational Services
40 Lindeman Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611
reganm@ces.k12.ct.us