



February 24, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Children's Committee. I am writing to state that I am cautious of SB 927 being introduced to limit physical restraints in school.

To date, most of the items indicated in this bill already are laws, or at very least policies, such as employees using restraint be trained.

I am a public school teacher working in an alternative setting with primarily emotionally disturbed K-12th grade students. We are regularly faced with students who kick, hit, bite and spit. They also throw furniture and anything else they can get their hands on.

I will have 2 actively psychotic students in my room who have auditory hallucinations shortly.

This is PUBLIC school.

When you take away tools like restraint, the public schools can no longer handle these students.

This will result in the outplacement of students like mine at a cost of minimally \$60,000 annually per student.

There are currently approximately 60 students in my program alone in New Britain. This would be at least \$3,600,000.00 per year in a district that has gotten flat funded for several years in a row without this expense.

Respectfully,
Cathy Lapierre
New Britain Special Education Teacher