



WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF THE
CONNECTICUT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)
BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, February 26, 2018

RE: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Raised Bill No. 183

My name is Judy Goldberg, Vice President of Government Relations for the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association. The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and its over 38,000 members is submitting this written testimony in **support** of the following bill:

**SB 183 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

CT PTA supports this bill understanding that:

The use of seclusion must include constant direct monitoring of the welfare of the student, including the ability for immediate intervention and, facilities used for seclusion must allow self-egress in case of emergencies, must comply with life safety codes for confinement, and must be designed to keep children safe; and restraint and seclusion should not be utilized as an intervention in a treatment or behavior plan or an educational plan.

In particular, the Connecticut PTA supports the following language in the bill:
s) Not later than July 1, 2018, each local or regional board of education shall establish a policy regarding the use of an exclusionary time out. Such policy shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that (1) at least one school employee remain within close enough proximity to the student placed in an exclusionary time out that such student and school employee are able to communicate verbally, (2) the exclusionary time out period terminate as soon as possible, and (3) if such student is a child requiring special education, as defined in section 10-76a, or a child being evaluated for special education, pursuant to section 10-76d, and awaiting a determination, and the interventions or strategies are unsuccessful in addressing such student's problematic behavior, such student's planning and placement team convene as soon as is practicable to determine alternative interventions or strategies.



The safety and education of children has been at the core of PTA's mission since its inception. Excessive and improper use of restraint and seclusion seriously threatens both of those goals. The use of inappropriate restraint and seclusion methods by untrained school staff has resulted in the assault, injury, trauma and, even death of children in our schools. Our children need to be educated in an environment that is supportive and free from abuse, assault, injury, trauma and risk to life. This legislation addresses the need to train all school staff about restraint and seclusion and the preferable de-escalation techniques and the necessity to restrict restraint and seclusion for use only in emergency situations. We would also like to see a clearer definition of emergency as "an unanticipated and already occurring event that is placing the individual or others in imminent danger of physical harm". School should be a safe place for our children to learn.

About Connecticut PTA

Connecticut PTA comprises over 38,000 members consisting of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools and well-being of children. PTA is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education, children's health and child welfare. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth.