

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate Education Committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am Susan Christensen, Special Education director for Kaw Valley. I have had the opportunity to be involved in Special Education for over 30 years.

The regulations for ESI, that KSDE and other stakeholders so diligently developed are working for our students!

We have trained staff, educated parents, presented to school boards, put policies into place; all of which protect our students and staff alike. KSDE has also implemented quarterly reports from building principals to monitor to number of ESI's utilized.

The regulations provide immediate contact of parent-- always making them a part of the process. KSDE statistics show only 1 complaint that even reached a level of mediation-- all other concerns are handled at the building or district level.

ESI training states we are to only use seclusion or restraint if it is an EMERGENCY situation endangering self or others. An ESI cannot be part of behavior intervention plan, or daily routine.

Having a student remove him/herself to a quiet, separate setting is acceptable.

It is a last resort for General Ed and Special Ed students.

Our current system WORKS. Multiple, invested, stakeholders spent hours developing regulations that work for all parties, but especially keeping the student first and foremost safe.

Please do not let HB2170 go through without careful consideration of regulations that do have a track record of meeting the needs of Kansas students.

Thank you for your time.