



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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Testimony before the
Senate Education Committee
on
HB 2170

by

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you this opportunity to offer our input on an important and complex topic. We say important because it has a profound effect on the safety of each and every Kansas student, their classmates and the adults who teach and supervise them. We say complex because Emergency Safety Intervention, formerly known as Seclusion and Restraint, has moved from off the radar, to State Board guidelines, to State Board regulations and now even the possibility of being codified into statute, all in the last ten years.

At this point in time, KASB is neutral on the bill. After it left the House committee, we stated, “As the new bill has been shared with other stakeholders, we have heard some concerns about several of the components. KASB wants to find the best possible way to address the issue of emergency safety interventions. As the bill moves forward, KASB hopes the concerns of other organizations can be addressed, so the final bill has the broadest possible support.”

The bill did passed out of the House 122-1 with two amendments. The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to remove an instance of a standard repeated in the bill and to establish a date certain for the adoption of rules and regulations creating an independent complaint process. KASB supported each of those amendments.

However, other important stakeholders do still have concerns, some of which we expect to hear about from bill opponents. After hearing some of these recommendations to address these concerns, KASB still believes there is room for improvement in the bill.

As a result, we believe a possible route to finding language that meets the needs of the broadest swath of interested parties - students, both those who might need either seclusion or restraint or those who could become victimized by a classmate; parents; staff, both those whose work is directly tied to

some of our very challenged students and those, who in an emergency, might be called to intervene; as well as district administrators and school boards - would be a sub-committee formed from this committee to dig more deeply into the situation than one committee meeting might allow.

The regulations controlling ESI use have been in effect for less than two years. Fully documented incidents of poor administration of ESI regs are almost non-existent. Part of the sub-committee task would be to fully analyze this data and use it to drive decisions about the practice and controlling regulations as compared to letting fewer than a handful of stories, painful to hear and that ignite anger, even outrage, dictate how we keep our students, all of them, safe.

We stand by our work with the different stakeholders to date and will continue to devote the time and energy necessary to make to make our buildings safe for all students and their staffs by ensuring practices that are effective, driven by data, humane and recognize the dignity of all those children put into our care.

I'll be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.