



My name is Janette Keil. I am here to support the Seclusion and Restraint Bill. I came to talk about why this bill is so important. My husband and I with our four children live at 5347 NW Lincoln Street in north Topeka, KS. Three of the children are biological siblings we adopted from the State of Kansas SRS System. The oldest of our adopted children has special needs and requires extra care, resulting from the lack of care in his first years of life.

Jeremy has been diagnosed with Complex PTSD (also known as Developmental Trauma Disorder), ADHD, ADD, Tic Disorders, Sensory Integration Issues and anxiety difficulties. Jeremy was also exposed to substance abuse in utero which has impacted his development in many ways. He struggles with emotional, self-concept and identity. He has many relationship problems with family and peers. It is important to understand that his biggest fear is that of abandonment and isolation. Since Jeremy was neglected and abandoned by his birth mother, he assumes people he cares about will abandon him. Jeremy's fear is expressed thru anxiety. Examples of his anxiety are clowning around, not doing homework, being disruptive, impulsive illnesses, incessant chatter and disappearing into his own little world.

Jeremy has such severe mental illness he is served though the Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Children with SED. The waiver is reserved for children who without extensive community services would be in psychiatric residential facilities. With waiver services through Family Service and Guidance Center and intensive family and individual therapy, Jeremy is able to live at home, attend a local public school, learn in school, and spend quality time with family and friends.

Jeremy really struggles in school. A few years ago, he could not make it a day in the normal classroom setting because of the symptoms of all his diagnoses. School became a place he feared—and not a place for him to learn. He did not want to go to school. Many times I drove to the school because they had called me to come and get him. They could not manage him. They were isolating him and holding him repeatedly. He would come home with bruises. We did not know what to do. The impact of the extensive mental health treatment was seriously set back every day at school. Desperate, we met with Keys staff on a Sunday morning at McDonalds to ask for help. Dr. Adams said this is fixable.

With the help of Keys for Networking we started over with the school. We secured a functional behavioral assessment so we could begin to figure out what prompted his explosions. We developed an IEP that addressed his academic and social needs. We designed a behavior intervention plan that describes interventions to lesson Jeremy's anxiety, described calming techniques for the teachers to use and agreed to in writing, the reward system that helps shape desired school behaviors. We worked with the school to engage Dr. Mindy Higgins-Kessler to teach all the people who worked with our son about how to meet those needs. Dr. Mindy helped the school understand that his mental health needs could not be addressed as long as he was re-traumatized at school with isolation and holding techniques.

We did all this through the IEP process. We redo the Individual Education Plan every year and tweek it every couple of months to offer a team shaped consistent positive reinforcement system that is now used by all his teachers.

School is working right now for Jeremy. We are beginning now to notice problems with his younger siblings. We need regulations around seclusion and restraint so this process will not take so long and we do not have to simply beg his teachers not to hurt him. We know Jeremy will have life long emotional and behavioral needs. We expect the school to – if not help us to at least not hurt his treatment and his development.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

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