

**Senate Education Committee  
Testimony on House Bill 2444  
March 8, 2012  
Presented by Linda Aldridge, Ed.D.  
Representing the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators  
(KASEA)**

Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA) opposes HB2444 for the following reasons:

1. Emergency Safety Intervention guidelines already provide appropriate standards for the use of restraint and seclusion. There is no compelling evidence that these guidelines need to become law. There have been no substantiated complaints. Parents of students with disabilities already have due process rights designed to investigate complaints and to provide remedies, if warranted.
  
2. A new set of legal mandates is likely to have a chilling effect on the willingness of teachers to take prompt action, when necessary, to maintain a safe school environment. Seclusion and restraint techniques are used only when emergency safety interventions are necessary; such situations sometimes escalate very quickly. Teachers must keep everyone safe while exercising skill, professional judgment and compassion. Current guidelines provide the right balance between reasonable precautions on one hand, and on the other, the need to take immediate action.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this important issue. If you wish further information from KASEA, I can be reached at: [laldrid@topeka.k12.ks.us](mailto:laldrid@topeka.k12.ks.us) or (785) 295-3089.

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