



HIGH PLAINS EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE

621 E. Oklahoma

"High Plains Educational Cooperative will assist and support the member districts in providing educational services which will maximize opportunities for all children to live, learn, and work in society." *HPEC Mission Statement*

Ulysses, KS 67880
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March 9, 2015

Honorable Chair Representative Steve Abrams and committee members of the Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding sub House bill 2170 on the topic of seclusion and restraint in the school setting. I am the grandmother of a child with a disability enrolled in the Kansas public school system. The teachers, principals, and staff that provide services to my granddaughter do so with respect and firmness to support her in the general education setting. The staff also supports her family by continued communication of how her day is so that her parents can reinforce the positive behaviors she exhibits. She is invited to birthday parties, can name friends in her class and is included by her peers at recess, the same thing every family desires.

I am aware that this loving staff has also restrained my granddaughter, which I fully support. It is not done in anger or as a behavior intervention, but as listed in the current regulations, only when she presents an immediate danger to herself or others. I know the staff is well trained and supervised in the implementation of emergency safety interventions because I am also the Director of Special Education for the High Plains Educational Cooperative.

The current regulations were put into place in April 2013. The regulations are well written and provide clear standards of when ESI should be used. The Kansas State Department of Education has gathered data on the types and frequency of seclusions and restraints since the regulations were implemented. The data is reviewed by KSDE to provide technical assistance to buildings reporting the highest numbers of seclusion and restraint, a drill down to find the root cause of the high reporting. Even districts that report no seclusions or restraints are randomly reviewed to ensure that reporting is taking place. I think you will find that the current data supports the implementation of the ESI regulations and the response from KSDE in providing immediate technical support to assist all students in crisis.

Litigation and sanctions are time consuming, costly and adversarial by nature. Please allow the current regulations to continue to support families, students and staff in an open, loving and caring manner by not passing HB 2170.

Respectfully

Gail Gillespie

