

January 20, 2010

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) I am pleased to offer COPAA's support for H.R. 4247, the "Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act." Our formal statement of support can be viewed at <http://www.copaa.org/news/positiononHR4247andS2860.html>. As I said in our December letter to you, COPAA believes H.R. 4247 is critical legislation that is an important first step to protect the rights of children with disabilities and provide a minimal floor of protection from what has historically been the unacceptable use of restraints, seclusion and aversive interventions in schools.

COPAA is comprised of over 1200 parents, advocates and attorneys who represent children with disabilities in educational settings. Our members weighed in heavily with strong opinions about many aspects of the bill. Our statement reflects their views, our principles as an organization and our desire to continue to work to strengthen the bill to guarantee the safety and well-being of all children.

Thank you for the important work you continue to do on this critical issue. COPAA anticipates continuing its strong partnership with you and Congresswoman McMorris Rogers, and we are grateful for the role we were invited to play in the process that resulted in H.R.4247. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee and other stakeholders to ensure that the rights of all children and their parents are protected.

Sincerely,



Denise Marshall  
Executive Director