



February 17, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of 800 colleges of education in higher education institutions across the country, members of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, I write in support of HR 4274, the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act.

This legislation represents the first national effort aimed at a serious problem that has too long gone unaddressed – namely the misuse of restraint and seclusion in our nation’s schools. The bill establishes standards regarding the use of restraint and seclusion, provides resources for staff training to support the use of safe and effective practices and improves data collection in this area. AACTE strongly supports the use of positive behavior supports and other strategies that teach and reinforce appropriate behavior and a safe school-wide climate.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to see this legislation enacted into law and refine its provisions. Do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of America’s school students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane E. West'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'W'.

Jane E. West
Sr. Vice President for Policy, Programs and Professional Issues