

National Disability Rights Network Releases Report on Seclusion and Restraint in U.S. Schools

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By: Carin Yavorcik

http://www.autism-society.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=12683&news_iv_ctrl=1882

Group Calls for National Ban on Seclusion and Prone Restraint, Increased Teacher Training

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) has unveiled a national report that shows an unsettling use of seclusion and restraint tactics, which resulted in physical and emotional injuries as well as deaths, in schools affecting students from grades K-12.

NDRN held a news conference on Capitol Hill today, outlining specific cases of abuse and identifying inconsistent state laws and a lack of government oversight and investigation of this issue. NDRN also called for the incoming Obama administration and 111th Congress to ban the use of prone restraint and seclusion under federal law. The group is also calling for a national summit to devise plans to implement these bans and encourage the use of evidence-based positive behavioral supports.

"Children are supposed to be safe at school - and most of the time they are," said U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), who spoke at the briefing. "Unfortunately, this report shows us that in too many schools in too many places children with disabilities are not safe - and are often subjected to inhuman treatment: being locked in rooms, tied down, or worse. Armed with this report, I will continue to work toward banning the inappropriate use of seclusion and restraint in our schools and ensuring the public knows and learns more about these practices."

"This report raises serious questions about the treatment of schoolchildren, the qualifications and training of staff, and what actions have been taken to address these unconscionable practices. No child should be at risk or in danger while at school, no matter what the circumstances," said U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), the Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. "Our committee will hold a hearing to look at how we can address and hopefully end these horrific acts."

NDRN's report makes several additional recommendations to quickly remedy this growing problem. Besides recommendations made to the Obama administration and the 111th Congress, the report provides a specific list of recommendations for state legislatures, boards of education and local school districts.

To view the report in its entirety, visit the [NDRN Web site](#).

