

Parents of a Student with Disabilities

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 1043

EDUCATION—PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION—GUIDELINES AND REPORTING

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

As parents of a student with disabilities we support HB1043. Our son was restrained and or secluded 82 times in two years. If HB1043 had been in place prior to those restraints, I'm confident we could have avoided most of them. During our 5th IEP meeting of his 3rd grade school year, we requested the school employ Trauma Informed Care after his therapist diagnosed him with a trauma disorder from his previous restraints/seclusions. We were informed the County was training in Trauma Informed Care at all schools and our son's school had the county's expert in Trauma Informed Care. We were informed in the next meeting that the staff member was passionate about Trauma Informed Care and was sharing what she learned with peers. This was not a county wide initiative as we were led to believe. Trauma Informed Care was not used at our son's school. We learned during the IEP process that most of our son's transports, restraints, and seclusions were done by his one to one or aids. The only formal training a one to one has is Crisis Prevention Intervention or CPI. CPI does not factor in mental trauma to a student. CPI is used by health care professionals, prison staff, security, and in schools to prevent physical harm of the person providing crisis intervention. Our son's one to one was provided with two days of annual CPI training by the county. She had no training in Trauma Informed Care. HB1043 will prevent circumstances like this from occurring by ensuring the staff have the right training and can employ the proper care to prevent trauma to students. Since moving our son to an appropriate school that uses trauma informed care with restraint and seclusion employed only as a last resort, we went from 82 restraints/seclusions in two years to only having two incidents that resulted in restraint/seclusion in a 15 month period. Our son has changed drastically since moving to an appropriate school. We see him smile again, and he no longer requires anti-anxiety or antipsychotic medication. It's obvious to us now that if our son's previous school staff had the correct training in Trauma Informed Care, our son would not have been subjected to the trauma of being restrained or secluded 82 times.

In closing we fully support HB1043 and hope to prevent unintentional trauma to students in the future.

Thank you,

Roderic and Casey Freeman