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To the Maryland State Legislature:

Please accept the following testimony in support of Maryland House Bill 1166, which would increase regulations and reporting requirements for restraint/seclusion practices in the state's public schools. I write as an expert in educational policy, as the author of a forthcoming book on school punishment, and the father of a special education student in elementary school.

As documented in recent media reports (in Maryland and nationwide), the unregulated use of restraint and seclusion practices has led to numerous instances of abuse and inappropriate confinement of schoolchildren, disproportionately affecting students with disabilities. While schools sometimes need to restrain students for their own safety and that of others, teachers and administrators need much clearer guidance about appropriate forms of restraint, as well as the psychological effects of student seclusion (which is almost never appropriate.)

I would encourage all legislators to support HB 1166 as a first step in correcting these issues in our public school system.

You may reach me at [cfscib@umd.edu](mailto:cfscib@umd.edu) for further details or comment. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Warm regards,  
Campbell F. Scribner  
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