

I am a resident of New Jersey writing favorably for Maryland House Bill 1255, Education – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Limitations, Reporting, and Training. I am relieved that Maryland is taking this step toward creating safer environments for children who are entrusted to the care of knowledgeable, well-informed adults in school settings, both public and private. Neighboring states and even those further away will look to Maryland for their own courage in passing laws banning restraint and seclusion.

Thank you for realizing that we can change processes, which this bill aims to do, but we can't erase trauma. By changing the process by which we help children through their feelings and outlets for those feelings, we have the opportunity to prevent traumatic experiences of being secluded and restrained. My 4-year-old daughter was victimized in her New Jersey public school by her teacher with packing tape, and the system of accountability failed her. I am thrilled Maryland has this opportunity to reframe the conversation in 21st century terms to what it means to discipline a child and how that discipline will forever affect their trajectory through their school years and beyond.

Sincerely,
Elena Croy