

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

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DATE: June 12, 2012
TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly
FROM: Developmental Disabilities Council
RE: Senate Bill No. 242 Seclusion and Restraint in Public Schools

The Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) has reviewed Senate Bill No. 242 on the use of seclusion and restraint in public schools. The DD Council **strongly endorses** and supports Senate Bill No. 242.

The DD Council has been advocating for several years for restrictions on seclusion and restraints used to control people with disabilities and that have resulted in injuries and, at times, death of students in schools in the United States of America. People with disabilities, especially developmental disabilities, have begun to advocate on their own behalf against the use of seclusion and restraints for any purpose.

Delaware has been recently moving forward on this issue and is, along with a national movement, now making strides towards more humane treatments for people with disabilities in all environments, including schools. For additional information on restraint and seclusion policy, see the U.S. Department of Education Restraint and Seclusion Resource Document issued May 2012 (<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/seclusion/index.html>), and the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD'S) position summary on the Use of Physical Restraint Procedures in School Settings revised and approved on July 8, 2009. In addition there is the 2009 GAO report (<http://www.gao.gov/htext/do9719t.html>) and the National Disabilities Rights Network position at <http://www.ndrn.org/en/issues/abuse-and-neglect/restraint-and-seclusion.html>.

Senate Bill No. 242 addresses the lack of standards and the misuse of seclusion and restraint in our schools. It will help to keep our kids safer as they learn, develop and participate in instructional programs that promote academic achievement.

Thank you for your consideration of our remarks. Should you have any questions regarding our position on this issue please contact our office at 739-3333.

Cc: Lt. Governor Matt Denn
Developmental Disabilities Council
State Council for Persons with Disabilities
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
General Assembly

