



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AREA BOARD 10

*Protecting and Advocating for Persons with
Developmental Disabilities in Los Angeles County*

January 7, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: HR 4247, Preventing Harmful Restraint & Seclusion in the Schools Act
Position: Support**

Dear Representative Miller,

Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10 is a state agency mandated to protect and assert the legal, civil, and service rights of people with developmental disabilities in Los Angeles County. California has a system of 13 Area Boards, covering all regions of the state. It is on behalf of our Board of Directors and the 70,000 people with a developmental disability who reside in Los Angeles County that I write today to convey our support for your HR 4247.

This bill aims to prevent and reduce inappropriate restraints and seclusion in schools. If passed, it would be the first step to nationally protect the rights of students to be free from harm, including unnecessary seclusion, physical restraint, and chemical restraint.

No student should experience harm while pursuing an education. By supporting and protecting these rights, your bill ensures that students with disabilities have a reduced chance of experiencing incidents of inappropriate seclusion or restraint.

We thank you for your consideration of our input. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Cathy Blin, Chair
Governmental Affairs Committee

cc: House Education and Labor Committee, Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education
Local Federal Representatives for Los Angeles County