



February 25, 2019

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Allen
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sablan and Ranking Member Allen:

The National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools (NCSECS) is dedicated to ensuring that students with disabilities have equal access to charter schools and that charter schools are designed and operated to enable all students to succeed. NCSECS is a leader and partner with state charter authorizers, charter networks, and charter schools across the United States. Today, we write to thank you for your leadership that ensures the 116th Congress will discuss the critical need for legislation that prohibits seclusion and limits the use of restraint in schools. NCSECS, through its Equity Coalition, has developed a [Statement on Discipline](#) for charter schools to embrace as they seek to provide inclusive, safe and positive learning environments for all students.

Restraint and seclusion are dangerous practices that cause students trauma and have resulted in injury and even death. Though the use of restraint and seclusion is widespread, data shows that most students restrained and secluded were students with disabilities – who comprised 12 percent of all students enrolled yet represented 71 percent of all students restrained and 66 percent of all students secluded.¹ *All* of our nation's students deserve better.

NCSECS urges you to review and seriously consider legislation pending re-introduction, the *Keeping All Students Safe Act* which would prohibit seclusion and limit restraint to emergency situations only. The bill also promotes a shift toward preventing problematic behavior through use of de-escalation techniques, conflict management, and evidence-based positive behavioral interventions and supports. This improved focus will help school personnel understand the needs of their students and safely address the source of their behaviors – a better result for everyone in our nation's schools.

Thank you for your leadership. We hope to work with you to develop legislation consistent with the *Keeping All Students Safe Act*.

Sincerely,

Lauren Morando Rhim, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Bobby Scott
The Honorable Virginia Foxx

NCSECS.ORG
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools

¹ Civil Rights Data Collection 2015-2016, (updated 2018) U.S. Department of Education at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/school-climate-and-safety.pdf>.