



Congressional Briefing

National Efforts to Restrict the Use of Restraint & Seclusion Practices in Schools

Legislative Highlights Include The Keeping All Students Safe Act, H.R. 1381

**Tuesday, June 28, 2011
12-1:30 p.m. ET
B-338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.**

Lunch will be provided. Register soon as space is limited. To RSVP, contact Dara Baldwin at dbaldwin@tash.org.

TASH welcomes all congressional leaders, legislative staff, advocates, educators and families to this important briefing.

Children are at risk of being injured and traumatized by restraint, seclusion and aversive interventions every day in U.S. schools. In January 2009, the National Disability Rights Network issued a report detailing the harmful use of these interventions in more than two-thirds of states, involving children as young as three years old. In response, the Government Accountability Office conducted an investigation that found federal law does not currently exist to regulate the use of these practices in schools. Furthermore, there are no requirements of schools to report instances in which restraint or seclusion is used.

The vast majority of education and mental health professionals agree that these techniques are not therapeutic, evidence-based practices. These practices are not effective means to calm or teach children, and may have an opposite effect while simultaneously decreasing a child's ability to learn. This TASH congressional briefing will include a thorough discussion of the dangers of these practices, how to eliminate their use in schools and the public policy efforts to protect our children from restraint and seclusion in schools.

Speakers Include

Barb Trader, Executive Director, TASH
Joan Gillece, Project Director, SAMHSA's Promoting Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint through Trauma-Informed Practices
Michael Remus, Director of Student Support Services, Deer Valley Unified School District
Linda Bambara, Professor, Lehigh University College of Education
Janice LeBel, Director of Program Management, Mass. Department of Mental Health Child & Adolescent Division
Phyllis Musumeci, Founder, Families Against Restraint and Seclusion

Co-hosts for the briefing include SAMHSA's Promoting Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint through Trauma-Informed Practices, National Down Syndrome Society, National Autism Association, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates and Families Against Restraint and Seclusion.

Contact Dara Baldwin at dbaldwin@tash.org to RSVP or call us at (202) 540-9020 for more information

For complete details visit www.tash.org/take-action