



December 18, 2025

The Honorable Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Donald Beyer
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert "Bobby" Scott
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
322 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Abraham Hamadeh
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Murphy, Murray, and Sanders, and Representatives Beyer, Scott, and Hamadeh:

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) works to create a world where individuals with Down syndrome thrive. We write today in strong support of the passage of the *Keeping All Students Safe Act* (S. 3448 / H.R. 6617), which would prohibit schools that are receiving federal funding from secluding students or using unsafe restraint practices to manage behavior.

Students with Down syndrome and other disabilities deserve safe and supportive learning environments where they can grow and succeed. However, the absence of federal standards on restraint and seclusion has caused students with Down syndrome to be subjected to harsh behavioral management techniques. Although students with disabilities served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) represent only 14% of all K–12 students, they account for 28% of mechanical restraint incidents, 76% of physical restraint incidents, and 68% of all instances of seclusion¹. These disparities highlight the urgent need for clear federal protections.

The Keeping All Students Safe Act would establish consistent national guidelines on restraint and seclusion. The bill bans mechanical and chemical restraints, prohibits seclusion entirely, and sets strict limits on when physical restraint may be used. In addition, the bill includes critical reporting requirements and provides technical assistance to help educators implement safe, evidence-based alternatives, ensuring that students with disabilities are not subjected to dangerous or discriminatory practices.

¹ <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/2021-22-crdc-first-look-report-109194.pdf>



NDSS strives to ensure all individuals with Down syndrome are assured of their human rights and valued by a more inclusive society. We thank you for your leadership on this issue and urge Congress to take swift action to protect individuals with Down syndrome in their classrooms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kandi Pickard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping "O" at the end.

Kandi Pickard
President and CEO
National Down Syndrome Society