



# **Keeping All Students Safe Act**

## **(S. 3448 / H.R. 6617)**

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### **Legislative Request**

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Please cosponsor the Keeping All Students Safe Act (KASSA) to ensure students with Down syndrome and other disabilities have access to safe classrooms.

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### **Background**

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Currently, there are no Federal laws to address the use of restraint and seclusion policies in schools. These practices, which are used to control a student's behavior, disproportionately impact students with disabilities. A lack of sufficient oversight and guidance has led to an increase in restraint and seclusion cases against students with disabilities. Although students with disabilities receiving special education services under IDEA make up only 14% of the total K-12 enrollment, they account for 28% of mechanical restraint, 76% of physical restraint, and 68% of seclusion incidents. The Keeping All Students Safe Act will help protect students with disabilities from being subjected to these traumatizing practices.

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### **Bill Summary**

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Introduced by Senators Chris Murphy (D – CT), Patty Murray (D – WA) and Bernie Sanders (I – VT) in the Senate and Representatives Don Beyer (D-VA-8), Bobby Scott (D-VA-3), and Abe Hamadeh (R-AZ-8) in the House of Representatives, KASSA will prohibit the use of mechanical and chemical restraint and seclusion, and will prohibit forms of physical restraint that are life-threatening or restrict breathing in schools that receive federal funding. The bill creates a grant program to assist state education agencies in implementing these new policies and procedures required by the legislation. The bill also establishes enforcement provisions, including a private right of action for a student subjected to these harmful practices.

**For more information, please contact [policy@ndss.org](mailto:policy@ndss.org)**