Dear Mr. George,

After 15 years working in special education in a variety of positions, settings, and districts, I'd like to share that I strongly support the runway proposal-submitted by Kate Hulse and the special education administrators.It's concerning that a total ban on seclusion is being proposed by individuals who will never have to implement it or absorb its consequences. These decisions are being made by people who do not place their bodies in harm's way, who are not the ones intervening during violent crises, and who do not understand what it means to support someone in an intense physical crisis who could be two or three times their size. In Setting IV programs, seclusion is an emergency-only intervention used to prevent serious injury when all other strategies (and there are many) have failed. Removing it on an arbitrary timeline—without fully funded, implemented, and proven alternatives—is not progressive; it is reckless.

The very predictable result will be more physical restraints, increased law enforcement involvement, shortened and modified school days, more restrictive placements, and staff and student injuries. At a time when Setting IV staffing is already at a breaking point, this proposal signals to educators that their safety is secondary and their lived experience irrelevant. If this ban moves forward without a true runway, it will not reduce harm—it will simply shift that harm onto students and the frontline staff who are already carrying the heaviest burden. Please consider the runway proposal.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

--
Jackie Pauley
Assistant Director of Special Education/Principal
Alliance Education Center