

Dear Senator Seeberger and Mr. George,

The use of seclusion as a part of our safety continuum of services and supports in schools enables students who have significant behavioral needs to remain in setting IV schools rather than be assigned to more restrictive environments, such as a residential setting.

While no one wants to use seclusion for students, sometimes it is necessary to keep the student and others around them safe when their behavior is extremely dysregulated. Seclusion, when used as the upper end in the continuum of supports for students is appropriate to meet their needs and honors a student to be able to keep them in school.

With gratitude for all those working on this, I firmly believe that we need to keep the option of seclusion in our setting IV programs.

Heather Kosec

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Pronouns: she/her/hers