

I am writing to express my support for the Runway with Support proposal developed by the Seclusion Working Group. As a Federal Setting IV related service provider and special education administrator, my team and I serve students with the most significant and complex educational needs in the state. We are deeply connected to and invested in our students' success.

While seclusion is not a practice we promote or use lightly, removing it as a last-resort option without a suitable alternative places both students and staff at risk. I ask that you consider the layered, proactive approaches schools already implement to support students with significant mental health and behavioral needs, as well as the limited and emergency-based circumstances in which seclusion may be used to maintain safety during a crisis.

Our teams are committed to supporting students every day—even when that work is challenging. To do so responsibly and safely, we must have access to the full range of tools necessary to respond to complex situations. We ask that you acknowledge the realities of the students we serve and the professionalism, expertise, and dedication of the teams supporting them.

Please allow us to continue serving students within a trauma-informed, equitable, and compassionate framework that is responsive and individualized to their needs.

Nikki VanOeveren, M.S., CCC-SLP

Assistant Manager

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Pronouns: she/her/hers ([learn more](#))

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My Office is a Safe Space ❤

