

Mr. George,

I am writing to provide my comment on the proposal to remove seclusion from MN Schools. My name is Matt Newquist and I am a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Behavior Analyst in Minnesota who works in the CASE program at ISD 917. This program serves students within our district who have not been able to safely access their education in our other setting 4 programs. When students first come to the CASE program they typically need at least 2:1 staff support if not more to help keep themselves and their staff safe. For some of these students, seclusion has been a tool that has supported their access to their education. It has allowed them to be able to move their body while they are upset while staff are also able to remain safe. There are some students for whom seclusion is reported to feel safer to the student and parents than physical holding of the student. There are also students for whom seclusion is contraindicated, and we do not use it with those students. We have been working to implement Ukeru in the CASE program over the last couple school years. During this time, we have been able to fade out the use of seclusion for some students thanks to Ukeru. We have also seen that for some students Ukeru has not solved the safety issue. As the state considers the removal of seclusion as a tool, I strongly urge you to choose the "Runway with Support" Proposal. This proposal will allow schools to continue to try and do the best they can to support their students in the least restrictive way possible. I fear the "Hard Stop" proposal will lead to an increase in staff and student injury, increased law enforcement response to behaviors that could previously be managed by school staff, and potentially an increase in the use of modified days or even home based services for students with the highest level of need.

Sincerely,

Matt

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Matt Newquist (he/him/his)

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See our [Family and Student Resources Page](#) for information on a variety of topics for families and staff

"A failure is not always a mistake, it may simply be the best one can do under the circumstances. The real mistake is to stop trying." -B.F. Skinner