

Hello,

I am emailing to provide input regarding the recommendations of the seclusion working group. As a director of special education for 22 years, 18 of those at an intermediate school district, there are dwindling resources available to support the students that we serve outside of the school district. As a result, we are serving students in greater numbers and with more intense needs than ever before. Without appropriate resources in place in the community to support students as well as an increasing scrutiny of special education funding to support students with disabilities I believe seclusion should only be prohibited *if and when* suitable alternative tools have been identified, fully funded, and implemented with fidelity. Programs such as Ukeru have been cited as examples of promising alternatives. This creates a "runway." It mandates that the state provide funding and technical support *before* removing the safety net that helps us run programs without increased physical holds, law enforcement involvement, shortened days, or injuries to students and staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Schaller