



Testimony before the
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
on
**HB 2243 – Authorizing school security officers to use certain types of emergency safety
interventions**
by
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on **HB 2243**, authorizing school security officers to use certain types of emergency safety interventions. KASB appears today as neutral on the bill.

HB 2243 allows school personnel who have been trained in prevention and de-escalation techniques and positive behavioral intervention strategies that are consistent with nationally-recognized training programs, and who are acting under locally-adopted board policies, to use mechanical restraints, such as handcuffs, in the event a student presents a “reasonable and immediate danger of physical harm” to himself or others and no other method can prevent that harm.

Current law permits only licensed law enforcement officers to use such methods; the delay involved in waiting for licensed law enforcement response to a violent student situation could lead to increased physical danger to both the student and other students or school staff.

In our view, HB 2243 makes a common-sense adjustment to existing school law regarding emergency seclusion and restraint and provides for locally-adopted board policy on this issue. Further, we are not sure why there should be a distinction in this matter between law enforcement officers and properly trained school security staff, who often are retired or former police officers. We understand, however, that the ESI law was the result of a difficult and delicate process, and we want to respect that process.

We would, therefore, encourage the committee to carefully consider all the testimony you hear today; we stand willing to work further with all parties to come to a resolution on this issue.

Thank you again, and I will answer questions at the appropriate time.