



# Families Together, Inc.

*Parent Training & Information Centers for Kansas*

February 6, 2017

Home Page:  
[www.familiestogetherinc.org](http://www.familiestogetherinc.org)

Administrative Center  
313 N. Seneca  
Wichita, Kansas 67203-5951  
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1-888-815-6364  
Fax (316) 263-0031

Wichita Parent Center  
3033 W. 2nd, Suite 106  
Wichita, KS 67203-5369  
Voice/TDD (316) 945-7747  
1-888-815-6364  
Fax (316) 945-7795  
[wichita@familiestogetherinc.org](mailto:wichita@familiestogetherinc.org)

Topeka Parent Center  
5611 S.W. Barrington Court South,  
Suite 120  
Topeka, KS 66614  
Voice/TDD (785) 233-4777  
1-800-264-6343  
Fax (785) 233-4787  
[topeka@familiestogetherinc.org](mailto:topeka@familiestogetherinc.org)

Garden City Parent Center  
1518 Taylor Plaza  
Garden City, KS 67846-4055  
Voice/TDD (620) 276-6364  
1-888-820-6364  
Español (620) 276-2380  
Fax (620) 276-3488  
[gardencity@familiestogetherinc.org](mailto:gardencity@familiestogetherinc.org)

Statewide Spanish Parent Line  
1-800-499-9443

## Testimony in Opposition to HB 2243

Chairman Jennings and Members of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Lesli Girard, and I represent Families Together, Inc. a non-profit organization which serves Kansas families who have children with disabilities or special health care needs. It is our mission to encourage, educate and empower families and their sons and daughters with disabilities to be effective advocates. We are the Parent Training and Information Center designated by the Federal Department of Education to assist families in understanding and navigating the Special Education system.

I have been extensively involved in the policymaking efforts related to the use of seclusion and restraint in Kansas schools over the past decade. As an agency, we have been a part of the discussion about seclusion and restraint since 2005 and have worked collaboratively with the Disability Rights Center (DRC), Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), and Keys for Networking to get information out to families about the use of seclusion and restraint in schools. This collaboration has resulted in solid statute and regulations for the use of what is now known as Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI). The current Kansas policy is strong.

I urge you to not support HB 2243; I feel it would be a step backwards and undo the great work that has already been done.

Sincerely,

*Lesli Girard*

Lesli Girard  
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*Assisting Parents and Their Sons and Daughters with Disabilities*