



Families Together, Inc.

Parent Training & Information Centers for Kansas

February 6, 2017

Home Page:
www.familiestogetherinc.org

Administrative Center
313 N. Seneca
Wichita, Kansas 67203-5951
Voice/TDD (316) 945-7747
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

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

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

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
Project Director
Families Together, Inc.
<http://www.familiestogetherinc.org/>
(785) 233-4777
5611 SW Barrington Court South
Topeka, KS 66614

Assisting Parents and Their Sons and Daughters with Disabilities