



December 16, 2009

Representative George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To the Honorable George Miller,

We would like to thank you for introducing HR 4247 a bill to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools. Access Living of Chicago supports this bill and believes it is necessary for the human dignity of students with disabilities.

In particular we were pleased to see that the bill prohibited school personnel from utilizing "aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety" of students. Our own experience in Illinois in attempting to prevent a private out of state school that uses electrical shock to control students with disabilities from receiving Illinois students indicates the need for your proposed legislation. In this fight the private school hired one of Illinois most powerful lobbyists in an attempt to prevent the Illinois State Board of Education from passing a rule that would prevent our students from being sent to this school that uses electrical shock.

One member of the state Board voted against this rule that would block our children from attending this out of state school. That member had been our indicted and impeached Governor Rod Blagojevich's deputy chief of staff for education. The opponents of justice for students with disabilities are many and powerful. Access Living pledges to do what ever it can to help this bill pass.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marca Bristo" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marca Bristo
President and CEO