

## **Gonzalez Statement on Passage of Keeping All Students Safe Act**

Washington, DC – Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX – 20) issued the following statement after the House of Representatives passed the Keeping All Students Safe Act, a bipartisan legislation that would, for the first time, provide federal oversight and accountability to protect students from the use of harmful restraint and seclusion in schools:

“Schools should be a safe haven for all children, but especially for the most vulnerable students with disabilities,” said Congressman Charles Gonzalez. “Until now, we have not had adequate standards that address this issue. With the passage of the Keeping All Students Safe Act, schools will be better equipped to prevent and reduce inappropriate restraint and seclusion of students by establishing minimum safety standards. Our top priority is to provide a safe learning environment for all students and teachers and I’m proud to support this effort.”

In order to protect both students and teachers, this bill establishes minimum safety standards similar to those that are already in place at hospitals and other facilities that receive federal tax dollars. It limits physical restraint and locked seclusion, allowing these interventions only when there is imminent danger of injury, and only when imposed by trained staff. It would also outlaw mechanical restraints, such as strapping kids to chairs, and prohibit restraints that restrict breathing.

The Keeping All Students Safe Act also provides states with resources to help train staff so that they are prepared to deal with any situations that may arise. It also instructs states to produce yearly reports on the number and type of restraints or seclusion used, and requires schools to notify parents after incidents when restraint or seclusion was used.

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