Members of the Michigan Legislature:

The undersigned organizations proudly support **Senate Bill1223 of 2026**, sponsored by Senator Stephanie Chang, to strengthen Michigan's laws governing the use of seclusion and restraint in schools.

Michigan's current seclusion and restraint law represented significant progress when it was enacted in 2016. However, a decade of implementation has demonstrated that additional safeguards are necessary to fully protect our students. Thousands of students continue to experience seclusion and restraint each year. We believe Michigan can do better.

The updated legislation takes a thoughtful approach to improving student safety while providing schools with the guidance and support they need to prevent crises before they occur.

Senate Bill 1223 builds upon Michigan's existing legislation by:

- Requiring trauma-informed training so school personnel understand how trauma affects student learning, behavior, and regulation.
- Aligning Michigan's definitions and reporting requirements with federal guidance, creating greater consistency and accountability.
- Providing updated guidance including a list of appropriate less restrictive interventions, as well as examples and non-examples of emergency situations, seclusion, and restraint.
- Strengthening state oversight by requiring monitoring of excessive use and the development of reduction plans.
- Improving transparency through more meaningful public reporting and disaggregated data.
- Raising the emergency threshold for seclusion and restraint to situations involving an imminent risk of serious bodily harm, ensuring restrictive interventions are reserved for true emergencies.
- Prohibiting the use of solitary seclusion, eliminating a practice that has repeatedly been shown to cause harm without improving student outcomes.
- Requiring schools to conduct a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and develop a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) plan following repeated restraint incidents involving the same student.

These reforms reflect nationally recognized best practices and prioritize prevention and early intervention. These adjustments also allow our educators to retain the ability to intervene in genuine emergencies.

As organizations committed to the safety, dignity, well-being, and educational success of Michigan's students, we fully support Senate Bill1223 and respectfully urge the Michigan Legislature to pass it.

We appreciate your consideration and your commitment to protecting Michigan's students.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Organizations