Dear Members of the Michigan Legislature:

The undersigned Michigan individuals - including parents, caregivers, educators, school professionals, healthcare providers, disability advocates, and other community members - proudly support **Senate Bill 1223 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 to improve 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 through monitoring and reduction planning.
- 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.
- Prohibiting the use of solitary seclusion.
- 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 individuals committed to the safety, dignity, well-being, and educational success of Michigan's students, we fully support Senate Bill 1223 and respectfully urge the Michigan Legislature to pass it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to Michigan's students.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned