



National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

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October 8, 2010

The Honorable Christopher Dodd
488 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Dodd and Senator Burr:

On behalf of The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), which represents the state directors of special education in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Bureau of Indian Education, the Department of Defense Education Agency, the federal territories and the Freely Associated States, I am writing to thank you for introducing S. 3895, the "Keeping All Students Safe Act."

NASDSE strongly supports this legislation. It represents a carefully crafted compromise that involved the work of both education and disability organizations, yet recognizes the urgent need to ensure that children and school personnel are safe in schools.

Our members believe that this is important legislation that will help schools train personnel in approaches such as schoolwide positive behavior supports, which have been proven effective in reducing aggressive behavior in schools. In addition, this bill will provide documentation for incidences so that school personnel will have a better understanding of what triggers such incidences and can be better prepared to take steps to avoid them.

While NASDSE would have preferred that the safeguards in this bill extend to all students, including those in private schools, we are extremely pleased that S. 3895 has garnered bipartisan support and we look forward to working with you to help move this bill through Congress.

Please feel free to contact NASDSE's director of government relations, Nancy Reder, at nancy.reder@nasdse.org or at (703) 519-3800, ext. 334 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D.
Executive Director