TESTIMONY OF
THE CONNECTICUT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (CT PTA)

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Proposed Bill No.7214 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

My name is Jennifer Falotico, President for the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association. The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and its over 38,000 members is submitting this written testimony in reference to Bill No. 7214.

The CT PTA supports the suggested changes to protect vulnerable students from physical restraint practices that may be harmful to the student. CT PTA believes that physical restraint of any student should only be used as a last resort in an emergency situation (where emergency is defined as an unanticipated and already occurring event that is placing the individual or others in immediate danger of physical harm).

CT PTA believes that all students need to educated in environments which are supportive and free from abuse, assault, injury and trauma and that the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion methods can result in assault, injury, trauma and in some cases loss of life.

CT PTA therefore further supports the changes in this legislation that would require continuous monitoring of children in seclusion and would like to see additional language that requires that facilities used for seclusion allow self-egress in case of emergencies.

Additionally, CT PTA supports all requirements to keep parents informed about what is happening with their children while they are in school. Schools should engage parents about every aspect of their child's education and this includes the use of emergency restraint and seclusion as well as any other disciplinary practices.

About Connecticut PTA

Connecticut PTA comprises over 38,000 members consisting of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools and well-being of children. PTA is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit
association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education, children’s health and child welfare. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth.