

MENTAL HEALTH COLORADO

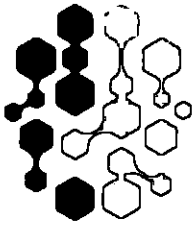
HB17-1276 – Concerning Prohibiting the Use of Certain Restraints Upon Public School Students

Representative Lontine

Senators Fields and Gardner

Position: Strongly Support with Amendment L.002

- This bill would align school districts with the Colorado Dept. of Human Services and with U.S. Dept. of Education directives by restricting the dangerous use of prone restraint.
- The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) has banned the use of prone restraints in all of its facilities, including residential treatment facilities, regional centers and the Division of Youth Corrections. However there is no such ban in Colorado's schools, meaning that children as young as 5 and 6 years old can be put in a prone restraint, while in other facilities in Colorado, this practice is banned.
- There is NO written documentation requirement for reporting to administration at this time. Written reporting can ensure meaningful use of data and information collected from incidents, and enhance schools' abilities to best serve all student
- In cases of a student threatening others with a deadly weapon, this ban would not apply and safety of students and staff could be preserved.
- Many students for whom prone restraint is used have needs for mental health supports that can be provided in lieu of waiting for crises to occur.



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- Mental Health Colorado works to ensure that mental health resources are in place for students so that proactive measures can be in place, as well as alternative mental health crisis interventions other than prone restraint (Mental Health First Aid, crisis planning, behavioral support plans, mental health counselors in the schools.)
- Amendment L.002 eliminates wording in the bill which is confusing and seems to imply that chemical and mechanic restraints can be used in certain situations in schools. Both chemical and mechanical restraints are prohibited in public and charter schools.
- **Mental Health Colorado requests your yes vote for HB17-1276.**

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