

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2266 - Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**Senator Donald Schaible, Chairman**

February 6, 2019

Good afternoon, Chairman Schaible and Members of the Senate Education Committee. I am Chris Jones, Executive Director of the Department of Human Services. In my role, I am the Chair of the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force (CBHTF). It is in that role that I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 2266 per the recommendation of the CBHTF.

The Children's Behavioral Health Task Force has established eleven areas of platform to focus efforts to eliminate service redundancies and efficiencies, fill in apparent service gaps, deploy program and professional best practices, and to promote health and well-being.

One platform area adopted by the Task Force addressed the Adoption of School Seclusion and Restraint Policy and Practices Guidelines for the state of North Dakota. The following is an excerpt taken from the Task Force's Platform Position and Strategy Statements document<sup>1</sup>.

**A. Adoption of School Seclusion and Restraint Policy and Practices Guidelines**

The CBHTF identifies the need for the state, local school districts, and schools to adopt student seclusion and restraint policy and practices guidelines, including a requirement for all local school districts and schools to adopt and implement effective plans of action. The CBHTF expresses its commitment to advance the adoption and implementation of previously studied seclusion and restraint guidelines that adapt and incorporate national best-practice standards. These guidelines move schools forward in securing the safety and well-being of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/children-bh-taskforce/docs/cbhtf-platform-positions-strategies-draft-3-final.pdf>

students and school staff, ensuring effective yet flexible expressions of best practices, eliminating the prospects of student or staff harm, coordinating data reporting, and reducing unnecessary legal exposure.

It is recognized that this would require additional training for educational personnel; therefore, the CBHTF supports the appropriation identified to address the necessary work within our state.

Thank you for your consideration. I'm happy to answer questions.