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MEDIA ALERT

National Disability Rights Network to Release Shocking Report on Seclusion and Restraint in U.S. Schools

Citing Deaths And Physical and Emotional Injuries, Group To Call For National Ban On Seclusion and Prone Restraint, Increased Teacher Training and Other Immediate Action Items By Obama Administration and the 111th Congress

WHAT:

At a media briefing on Jan. 13 on Capitol Hill, the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) will unveil a disturbing national report on seclusion and restraint in U.S. schools and call on the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress to introduce a national ban on seclusion and prone restraint practices in schools nationwide.

The report is a compilation of cases outlined by NDRN's 57-member network of protection and advocacy (P&As) systems nationwide. The report details deaths and physical and emotional injuries inflicted on students ranging from kindergarten to high school from schools across the country. It also outlines inconsistent state laws, lack of training for teachers and virtually no government oversight or investigation of the issue.

Speakers attending the media briefing include U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT), NDRN Executive Director Curt Decker, and families of loved ones who were physically restrained or placed in seclusion while attending schools.

In response to the death of a student with disabilities from the use of prone restraint in a middle school, Texas has taken the lead in banning the use of seclusion and restricting the use of physical restraint in public schools. Despite this, Advocacy, Incorporated, the protection and advocacy system in Texas, still encounters cases where students are still being restrained in public schools in violation of state law. Even though prone restraint is banned in state mental health facilities, Texas shockingly does not prohibit the use of prone restraints in public schools.

For more information regarding the use of seclusion and physical restraint in public schools in Texas, contact Steve Elliot with Advocacy, Incorporated at 512-454-4816.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 13 – 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: United States Capitol Visitor's Center, Senate side – SVC Room 210

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