



## Secretariat of Catholic Education

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### Action Alert

Re: H.R. 4247 - *Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act*

Message to convey:

I support Congress' desire to protect and enhance the safety and well-being of all students enrolled in both public and private schools.

*However, I urge you to vote **against** H.R. 4247 in its present form.*

I believe it would be unprecedented and intrusive for the Federal government to involve itself in some of the activities that would be required by H.R. 4247, such as:

Sec. 3 (5)(C) - collecting and analyzing data from private schools;

Sec. 4 (11)(A)(II)(ii) - extending the requirements of this legislation to every private school which has even one student or one teacher participating in a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education (NCLB, IDEA, etc.); and

Sec. 5 (a) - requiring school personnel to be certified in crisis intervention, although federal education law has never before imposed certification requirements on private school educators.

It is clear from the long-standing language of *ESEA* and *IDEA* that it has been Congress' intent, and properly so, to avoid federal involvement in the internal administration of private (nonpublic) schools. By ignoring that principle, H.R. 4247 in its present form crosses a dangerous line, **without any demonstrated need to do so.**

I urge you to vote **against H.R. 4247 in its present form**, and to alter the scope of this intrusive legislation so that it focuses directly on dangerous types of situations, rather than imposing burdensome data collection, internal monitoring and reporting, and unprecedented federal certification requirements on private school personnel.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.