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Florida Legislature Unanimously Passes Bill to Prohibit Seclusion and Restraints for Students with Disabilities by House Minority Leader Bobby DuBose and Senator Lauren Book

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, the Florida Senate unanimously passed [HB 149](#), by Florida House of Representatives Minority **Leader Bobby DuBose (D-Ft. Lauderdale)** and **Senator Lauren Book (D-Plantation)**. **HB 149**, defines terms related to seclusion, physical restraint, mechanical restraint, and specifies when such techniques may be used. The bill would also require school districts to prohibit placing a student in isolation.

“Students deserve to be safe at school, and parents deserve peace of mind,” said **Senator Book**. “While the majority of our special education school professionals provide caring and safe learning environments for students with disabilities, we have unfortunately seen serious abuses committed as well. When Governor DeSantis signs this bill into law, students with disabilities will no longer be placed into dangerous situations including seclusion and restraint while in Florida classrooms.”

“I am pleased to see this monumental piece of legislation finally pass through the legislature. Parents can finally breathe a sigh of relief for knowing their child will not experience the unnecessary trauma of being restrained, secluded, or put in another harmful situation by school personnel. This will be the first step in ensuring that schools are a safe environment, where our students can learn and feel protected,” said **Leader DuBose**.

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