

From: [Arellano, Joey](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Leader DuBose's HB 149 to Prohibit Use of Seclusion and Restraints on Students with Disabilities
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:14:19 PM

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CONTACT

Nazbi Chowdhury
Office of Leader Bobby DuBose
Nazbi.Chowdhury@myfloridahouse.gov
850-717-5094

Leader DuBose's HB 149 to Prohibit Use of Seclusion and Restraints on Students with Disabilities

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, [HB 149](#), by Florida House of Representatives Democratic **Leader Bobby DuBose (D-Ft. Lauderdale)** passed on the House floor. **HB 149** will prohibit seclusion and provide stricter guidelines for the use of physical restraints on students with disabilities in Florida schools. It defines terms related to seclusion, physical restraint, and mechanical restraint, and specifies when such techniques may be used. The bill would also require school districts to prohibit placing a student in isolation.

Since the inception of the reporting system for seclusion and restraint data in 2010, there have been 86,969 incidents of restraint and 21,489 incidents of seclusion reported in Florida between 2010 and 2020. These types of incidents can lead to students suffering bleeding or bone fractures, in addition to the psychological trauma of the experience.

“Children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable members of our society. This bill will assure parents that their child will not experience the unnecessary trauma of being restrained, secluded, or put in another harmful situation by school personnel. School should be a safe environment where our kids can learn and feel protected,” said **Leader DuBose**.

As he stated in his closing speech, this bill has been worked on for over 15 years and has support across the aisle. Its Senate counterpart, [SB 192](#), currently awaits a hearing in the full Appropriations Committee before heading to the Senate Floor.

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