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CAPITOL ADDRESS

Missouri State Capitol

Room 235
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RON HICKS State Representative District 102

To whom it may concern,

As the House Special Committee on Regulatory Oversight and Reform closely examines the use of seclusion and restraint policies by institutions of learning in our state, it would be extremely helpful to obtain testimony and information from educators and administrators in the Columbia Public School District.

As I am sure you are aware, the Missouri House is currently considering legislation to strengthen our laws dealing with the seclusion and restraint of children in our schools. In an effort to craft effective public policy, we are working to gain a better understanding of how these controversial practices are utilized in our schools, and how they impact our young people.

Because Columbia Public Schools have a well-documented relationship with Catapult Learning, which is known to utilize a seclusion room at the school district's CORE facility, the committee believes it would be extremely helpful to hear from all those who have knowledge of this situation, and of the use of seclusion and restraint on students in the district.

To that end, the committee will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 4th in House Hearing room 5 to discuss seclusion and restraint policies. The committee would greatly appreciate the input of the following personnel from Columbia Public Schools:

1. Peter Stiepleman – Superintendent of Columbia Public Schools
2. Helen Wade – President of the Columbia Board of Education
3. Alyse Monsees – Special Education Director for Columbia Public Schools
4. Michele Baumstark – Columbia Public Schools Records Keeper

The members of the Special Committee on Regulatory Oversight and Reform sincerely appreciate the cooperation of Columbia Public Schools in this matter. We are sure you share the same concerns we have in regard to the safety and well-being of our young people. Our goal is to have policy in place that will allow for world-class educational opportunities while also providing our young people with an environment that is compassionate and nurturing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Hicks".

Representative Ron Hicks
Chairman, Special Committee on Regulatory Oversight and Reform

COMMITTEES

Special Standing Committee on Homeland Security, *Chair*
Joint Committee on Capitol Security, *Chair*
Special Committee on Regulatory Oversight and Reform, *Chair*