

Foster Success

February 4, 2003

Dear Representative Mike Thompson,

As child abuse survivors we strongly support your legislation HB5 to prohibit coercive restraint therapy. Physical restraint should only be used in emergency circumstances for safety, not as a scheduled treatment. We are extremely troubled that coercive restraint is being used on any child to provoke discomfort, rage, or fear, but our concern is deepened even further to hear that it is being used on children with past histories of abuse and neglect. Children who have experienced trauma like abuse are exceptionally vulnerable. We must immediately prohibit this risky, experimental, and discredited form of therapy that has already been linked to the deaths of two Utah children. Thank you for sponsoring this Bill.

Sincerely,

Founders, Foster Success

Heidi Edwards

Celeste Edmunds

Michael and Barbara Feaster

Melissa Rhea