

1st Substitute of H.B. 5 and S.B. 137
PROHIBITION OF COERCIVE RESTRAINT PRACTICES

Utah Children SUPPORTS 1st Substitute H.B. 5
(sponsored by Representative Mike Thompson)

Utah Children OPPOSES S.B. 137
(Sponsored by Senator Parley Hellewell)

**UTAH CHILDREN'S POSITION ON COERCIVE
RESTRAINT PRACTICES**

Utah Children opposes the use of holding practices on children as a form of therapeutic mental health intervention, unless needed to prevent a child from immediately injuring himself or others. Utah Children finds that holding practices are not supported by the medical and psychiatric communities and no medical evidence exists to support their use.

S.B. 137 DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TO PROTECT CHILDREN

The difference between the two bills is that S.B. 137 allows potentially dangerous practices which 1st Sub. H.B. 5 would prohibit.

Specifically, S.B. 137 would not prohibit a mental health therapist from using coercive restraint practices on a child to invoke and unleash rage. S.B. 137 would allow a mental health therapist to restrain a child against their will while confronting the child in a verbally abusive manner (such as shouting into the child's face at close range for extended periods of time). Physically restraining a child against their will while they exhibit rage induced by the therapist is neither a nurturing intervention, nor a clinically proven one. 1st Substitute H.B. 5 would prohibit this coercive, rage inducing treatment of children which has not been proven medically effective.

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