January 3, 2012

Honorable Tom Harkin

Chair

Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

US Senate

Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Harkin:

Thank you for introducing the Keeping All Students Safe Act and for you commitment to our nation’s children. The Arc pledges to work with you in passage of the bill.

The Arc commends your untiring efforts to pass legislation that would create minimal national standards concerning the use of restraint and seclusion in schools and would promote effective, positive interventions. Children with disabilities disproportionately are victims of abusive restraint and seclusion and current state laws and policies have not been enough to protect these vulnerable children.

Again, thank you for your efforts to protect all children from abusive practices in school.

Sincerely,

Maureen Fitzgerald

Director Disability Policy