



## **Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD) Condemns Inhumane Treatment of Student with Down Syndrome in Kaw Valley**

“The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD) is appalled and deeply saddened by the reported actions of the paraprofessional and special educators in Kansas’ Kaw Valley School District. Specifically, the recent report that the educators harmed a student with Down syndrome by secluding him in a storage closet and cage at school. This is not only a gross violation of basic human rights but also a profound breach of the trust that families place in our state’s educational institutions.

Every individual deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion. The actions described in this case are in direct opposition to the Kansas laws, values of inclusion, equality, and care that we as a society must uphold, especially within our Kansas schools.

We stand in solidarity with the student and his family during this incredibly difficult time. KCDD calls for a thorough investigation and for justice to be served. We also urge all schools and care providers to review their policies and practices, especially when it comes to improper restraints and seclusion, to ensure that the rights and well-being of students with disabilities are fully protected and respected.

KCDD remains committed to advocating for the rights of all individuals with developmental disabilities and will continue to work towards a more inclusive and just community where such atrocities can never occur again.”

**“As a person with Down syndrome myself, I, Lola Kernell, know that treating people like me in this way is both rude and disrespectful in many ways. I can’t imagine how scared and hurt he was and probably still is. This scares me. We are human too and should be treated that way!” - Lola Kernell, Advocacy Coordinator, KCDD**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kansas-school-employee-locked-teen-down-syndrome-closet-storage-cage-lawsuit/>