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Americans With Disabilities Act Protections are at Risk in U.S. Schools

We Call on the National Disability Rights Network and Urge the Disabilities Rights Community to Stop the Dangerous Trend

- **States Considering Changing Building Codes to Fortify Schools**
- **Schools Installing Classroom Door Barricade Devices that Increase Risk**
- **Barricade Devices are Discriminatory and Violate Accessibility Laws**
- **Legal and Code-Compliant Solutions Exist to Protect Students**

WILMINGTON, DE – MAY 9, 2018 – In response to the tragic shootings at Parkland High School and [others across the country](#), school leaders are exploring options to secure their campuses. Several states have also considered or are considering changes to their building codes that would allow the installation of classroom door barricade devices.

However, the use of [barricade devices](#) in the classroom violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These devices are perceived to be less expensive while providing additional security, but they put students in greater danger.

Barricade devices do not meet fire codes, prevent immediate access to a classroom by first responders and slow down the process to quickly evacuate students in an emergency.

Discriminate and Violate Accessibility Laws

Schools seeking an affordable solution to secure their campus do not realize they will be in violation of federal law and create new hazards if they install barricade devices.

The Secure Schools Alliance (the Alliance) calls on the [National Disability Rights Network](#) and urges the disability rights community, state and local elected officials to enforce the ADA and keep their commitment to protect students with disabilities.

States that have permitted the installation of barricade devices include:

- Arkansas,
- Ohio and
- Utah.

“We strongly urge the [National Disability Rights Network](#) and elected leaders to take action to stop the installation of barricade devices that do not conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act and any other federal statutes that protect the rights of the disabled,” said **Robert Boyd, executive director of the Alliance**. “States and local schools should not cut corners to protect students for the sake of saving a few dollars. Elected officials and educators need to make effective school safety a top priority.”



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Citizens should contact the [National Disability Rights Network](#), their U.S. [Representative](#), [Senator](#) and local elected school leaders to urge them to stop the installation of classroom door barricade devices that violate the ADA.

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About the Secure Schools Alliance

The Secure Schools Alliance and Secure Schools Research and Education is taking a leadership role in launching a national conversation about the issue of school safety and advocating a course of action for addressing it. This convening of education, industry, public safety, law enforcement, corporate and community leaders will work together to ensure the security of our nation's schools through federal and state policy, legislation, research, pilot programs and the promotion of best practices. The goal is to improve the security infrastructure, security technology and life safety systems of all public K-12 schools. For more information visit:

<https://secureschoolresources.org/>

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