

3/21/23

To whom it may concern:

When reading the components to the bill regarding educational changes, it saddens me. The first component directed towards no video and surveillance is going against the safety of students and staff. There has been so many issues in society with violence against students/staff, untruth being told. With the use of video proof, there at least is a backbone when a situation occurs.

When moving onto component two, this is absolutely ludicrous. As a teacher of 9 years, I can feel a decline in students' needs being met academically, physically, and emotionally due to teachers needing to attend never ending trainings and working on paperwork. It is constantly advertised, that WE, as educators, need to be there for the student's academically, emotionally and physically, but we are not able to as often due to planning and prepping. Scores are never acceptable; therefore, we are ever changing curriculums. It takes so much time and dedication by students and staff to get students rolling into a new curriculum. We buy materials, spend countless hours in trainings, only to get students to understand, get motivated, and gain confidence into a new routine, just to change it the next school year.

If this bill passes, it would TAKE AWAY yet more time from teachers to connect with students on a deeper level. Our "extra" time, as teachers, would be spent on planning and prepping for upcoming weeks of curriculum. Personally, I have 2 small children of my own, a 12 student class full of various needs, and a personal life that I like to enjoy. ALL of these would be affected if this bill passed. We are trying to teach, guide, and care for students in a world that is already so judgmental, challenging, neglectful and hard at times, (Yes, there are many beautiful parts as well). However, if teachers are given all of this extra side work just preparing for each regular day in the classroom, there is LITTLE time for students needs to be met fully. Also, there will be VERY little time for teachers to balance school and personal life, thus, resulting into more teachers quitting and finding new professions. Insert, much larger teacher shortage.

I ask you, beg of you, to reconsider this bill. There is absolutely no positive outcome if this bill passes. It will negatively impact education and quite frankly, I am afraid to see what would become of it.

My passion for teaching runs deep. Being a part of my students' life each year, keeps me going and loving my career. It is such a part of me and I love coming to work every day. However, the thought of all this extra work is a deal breaker and would have me reconsidering education as my life long profession.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kaia Jelinek