

Dear Chairperson Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Melissa LeClerc. I am a Pre-K-2nd grade instructional coach at Grafton Public Schools. As a professional in the education field who works closely with our teachers on a daily basis, I am asking for you to vote NO on SB 2260 in both the committee and on the floor. Our teachers are already inundated with so many requirements to do their job and this will be one more task added to their already full plate. I'm not sure how many of you spend any time in a school system, but I encourage you to do so and see what our teachers deal with on a daily basis. The school initiatives we already have in place, plus new ones that are placed upon us by state legislation or mandates, already require us to go above and beyond, and now passing this would make our jobs harder to do. We are currently working on posting (to our school website) proficiency scales and priority standards that our teachers have spent hours on in order to ensure our students are meeting educational goals and learning what they need to know. By posting online our parents would be able to see what their students are required to learn at their grade levels (just one of our school's initiatives that teachers have embraced, but has taken a lot of extra unpaid personal time away from them). We maintain clear and open lines of communication with our parents and this mandate would be something that would make our jobs harder to do on a daily basis.

In addition to the workload, there is a teacher shortage and many veteran teachers leaving the profession because of the added work put on a teacher. Teaching isn't just about teaching anymore, it's about creating a safe environment for our students and making sure our students are safe and feel safe, it's about managing not only behaviors (behaviors that I would never have believed they have to deal with had I not seen it with my own eyes or had to try and manage myself), but trying to raise student scores so we aren't put on a plan of improvement. Teachers have to wear many different hats, they are social workers, therapists, teachers, nurses, secretaries, and mediators, just to name a few. They are exhausted and just want to teach our students. You would be amazed at what a day looks like when students are acting out, melting down, trashing classrooms to the point other where teachers have to get the other students out of the room so they aren't harmed. Adding extra mandates for our teachers is only going to upset our teachers who already go above and beyond for our students. We have already had to hire "online" educators for the current school year because we couldn't find teachers for our district and this isn't going to help schools keep great teachers or veteran teachers around when they are having to be micromanaged by state mandates. Please help be a part of making our jobs better, not push teachers away from the profession because we need them.

Thank you,

Melissa LeClerc