

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Shannon McLoud, and I serve as the Vice President of High Schools for the Providence Teachers Union, and teach English Language Arts at one of our high schools. I'm writing to you today to express my support for House Bill ~~7546~~.

This bill covers many things that teachers would like, and protects students from a teacher who may want to remove students for minor infractions. The fact that the behavior has to be well documented, and that it offers protections against retaliatory behavior for school employees is important. Frequently, teachers and admin are worried about addressing behavior as no one wants to be seen as "that teacher" and admin does not want to be admonished by school department officials. In addition, the student is not just removed and forgotten about. As educators we know that behaviors have a root cause. This will get students the supports they need, when they need it.

As a mom of a high school senior, I cannot express to you how many times my son would come home from school expressing how this "one kid who always bothers the teacher did something annoying" to disrupt the day's learning. If this had been a law, the teachers in his district would have been able to help those students, which would of course help those trying to learn. In my own classroom, I know this bill would have helped out during some challenging years. Instead of having to rely on teachers in other rooms who would volunteer their planning time to let the students have a quiet place to work, I would have been able to have the disruptive behaviors addressed, helping all students in the scenario.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,
Shannon McLoud
Vice President of High Schools
Providence Teachers Union