

From: [Brian Polak](#)
To: [S Legislation](#); [Sen. Lawson, Valarie J](#); [Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica](#)
Subject: Support S-2216 – Strengthening Student Safety
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Madam President, Chairwoman, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for S-2216, the “Don’t Pass the Trash.” As a school nurse in RI, I can’t emphasize enough the importance of this bill. Schools need to be a safe haven for the kids that need us.

This bill addresses a well-documented gap in school hiring practices by ensuring that individuals with histories of abuse or sexual misconduct cannot move between schools without disclosure. By requiring a thorough review of employment history, mandatory contact with prior employers, and full disclosure of investigations and disciplinary actions, S-2216 strengthens transparency and accountability in the hiring process.

While there are other proposals under consideration, they do not fully address this issue. S-2216 provides a comprehensive approach by covering all school personnel and ensuring full transparency in the hiring process.

Schools should have access to complete and accurate information when making decisions about who will be working directly with students. This legislation helps ensure that student safety remains the top priority.

I respectfully urge you to support and pass S-2216.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Melissa Polak, RN
North Smithfield, RI

Sent from my iPad