

From: [Kathleen Torregrossa](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2524 - School Safety
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Senate Education Committee
Senate Bill 2524, Subject: Classroom Safety

Dear Senator Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Kathleen Torregrossa, and I have been both a special educator and regular educator in Cranston Public Schools for over 3 decades.

Times certainly have changed during my career, as students now regularly act out in schools putting themselves, other students, and teachers in physical danger or in a situation for potential injury.

Therefore, I am writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 2524, which would give teachers the authority to remove students from classrooms when behavior creates safety risks or major disruptions to instruction, and it will ensure a safe learning environment for all who enter our schools.

This bill also helps ensure that students who are removed from the classroom receive appropriate support and intervention before returning, so they can successfully re-engage in the learning environment.

In my experience as an educator, I have seen situations where classroom disruptions or unsafe behavior made it difficult to continue instruction. For example: chairs being overturned or thrown, aggressive threats towards teachers and students, pushing and shoving leading to fights, materials being tossed at classmates, and fights in hallways and stairwells. Teachers have been hit, knocked to the ground, and injured when attempting to secure order for the safety of all.

Just this week, due to a new Tic Tok video trend, middle school students are scratching their peer's faces with the intent of scarring! Some are scared and appalled, others take it as a sign of status, while others have reacted by fighting. Teachers need to have tools in place to maintain and restore order to ensure a productive learning environment.

Providing schools and educators with clear guidance and authority to address these situations will help ensure that classrooms remain safe and supportive places for all

students to learn.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Torregrossa

Cranston Public Schools

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