

May 6, 2026

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill S2524

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill S2524 and to bring attention to the urgent and growing challenges facing our classrooms.

Across schools, educators and students are increasingly exposed to severe and disruptive behaviors that go far beyond typical classroom mismanagement. These behaviors include students physically assaulting teachers, throwing desks and chairs, using aggressive and abusive language, punching other students, and deliberately damaging school property such as laptops and classroom equipment and elopement, not only the classroom but the building as well. These are not isolated incidents—they are becoming more frequent and more intense.

The impact of this environment is significant. Teachers are expected to maintain safe, structured learning spaces, yet many feel unsupported when faced with repeated incidents of violence or extreme disruption. This leads to burnout, teachers leaving the profession after a year or two, and difficulty attracting new educators to the profession. Students who are ready and willing to learn are also affected, as their instructional time is interrupted and their sense of safety is compromised.

It is important to acknowledge that students exhibiting these behaviors often have underlying needs—whether social, emotional, or behavioral—that require proper support. However, the current system frequently places the burden solely on classroom teachers without providing adequate resources, staffing, or clear policies to address these situations effectively.

Senate Bill S2524 represents an important step toward restoring balance in our schools. It recognizes that maintaining safe and respectful learning environments is essential for both students and educators. The bill can help ensure that:

- Teachers are protected and supported when serious incidents occur
- Clear and consistent consequences are in place for dangerous behaviors
- Schools have access to appropriate interventions and resources for students in crisis
- The learning environment is preserved for all students

Every student deserves a safe place to learn, and every teacher deserves a safe place to work. Addressing extreme classroom behaviors is not about punishment—it is about creating an environment where learning can actually happen and where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

I urge you to support Senate Bill S2524 and take meaningful action to address these critical issues in our schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Suzy Quinn

Providence Public Schools

Kindergarten Teacher