

March 22, 2019

RE: Support for HB 2657

Dear Chair Williamson and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Hi. I'm Ainsley.

I am in second grade in Salem. My mom is helping me type this at her office computer during Spring break. I like computer lab, and science class at school. At my school, we need help learning about safety. We have a great counselor at my school. And she has done a lot of good things for us at our school. But I think we need more help.

For example, if we were learning about shark attacks at school, we would want to learn from someone who knew a lot about shark attacks (or had experienced one). People who know about safety and healthy relationships as their job are the best people to help us learn about this.

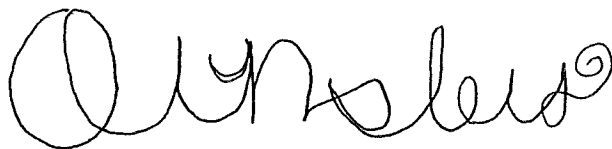
I like that people who own shelters (*Preventionists at DVSA Community Agencies*) can come and teach kids at school. This is important to me because I feel that I need a little bit of help with this too. All of the kids at my school probably agree. I agree that what all of us really need is someone caring that can help us be caring grown ups when we grow up.

We need people to come in and help us with this. Most schools have counselors, but not all of them do. Some people have been through experiences that will help them teach this information to other kids. I am concerned that not everyone is getting the help they need (*to learn about healthy relationships and respect*).

We need money to help kids and grown ups learn more about the things that other people have gone through and how to help stop that, that is why we ask for money. This way, we can have teachers help teach us kids how to be respectful. Treat others how you want to be treated.

People who know what it (*violence*) is like. Good people. Helping people. People who care about kids. That is who should help us learn. And that is why I wrote this letter to you. So I am writing this letter to you. And I think that every person should get a chance in the world to do anything. That is why I gave you this letter.

Sincerely,  
Ainsley (Age 8)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ainsley', written in a cursive style.

*\*Words in italics are added by mom to assist with translating context/names that Ainsley (age 8) doesn't have to describe who or what she is talking about just yet. All other words are verbatim. Thank you for considering her written testimony, this is her first submission to the legislature. She is incredibly proud!*