

To whom it may concern on the Joint Committee on Student Success,

My name is Rachael Smith and I am a fifth grade teacher. I love my job. I am fortunate to work in a Title I school with an amazing group of fifth graders. My students are bright, joyful, passionate, and enthusiastic. I truly believe they have the power to change the world. I consistently tell them to believe in this power within them. Coupled with this power, I tell them that if they see something that is wrong, whether it be in our classroom, in their homes, or in our world, they should, no, they MUST say something or do something. I believe as a teacher, I need to be an example to my students. So, now it is my turn to say something.

I am writing you to urge you to seriously consider HB 3427 and the positive impact it will have on our students and our futures. Our schools need adequate funding to support increasingly challenging behavioral and academic needs facing our classrooms. You have the power to make it so.

Our students deserve the best. They deserve small class sizes where teachers know them by name, by story, and by need. They deserve counselors who can support their social and emotional development. They deserve teachers who are knowledgeable, supported, and valued because those are the teachers who can pour into kids. They deserve opportunities through option programs, technology integration, and the latest and greatest curriculum and academic programs and support. Fund our schools so we can give our students the best.

It makes me sad that I have to write this. That I have to beg for something, that to me, is a no-brainer. We should not have to beg for education to be a priority. We should not have to fight to support best practices for students and teachers. Make this right.

Thank you,
Rachael Smith

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