

Mr. Dembrow and Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for clarifying that the Bill was written to protect the safety, health, and well-being of children. There are (perhaps unintended) consequences to this shared intent, which reach beyond the jurisdiction of government, violate First Amendment rights, and fail to guarantee the safety of children.

Private schools, particularly religious ones, are established and sustained by the belief that every individual is created in God's image and therefore worthy of utmost respect. Preserving students' physical, mental, and emotional well-being is the foundation that allows any learning to occur. Having filled out a near 40-page application just to SUBSTITUTE teach at my school before becoming a full time teacher, I know that the vetting process and standards of conduct for staff at private schools can be much more stringent than even those of public schools.

Yet in the end, regulation does not ensure integrity of conduct ; Integrity of character ensures integrity of conduct.

Do not, by subjecting them to unnecessary and unlawful regulation, impede private schools' adherence to a Law which will do more to protect children than any State regulation can.