

Submitter: Jamie LaFollette
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

In the last two days our school has had multiple instances of students running out of school. At one point a student was running into a very busy street. Thankfully the PE teacher was with me and able to pull him to safety. I am an inclusion assistant. My job is to ensure students receive equitable education services and I do this by helping with small groups and working individually with students in the classroom. Lately my job has been responding to behavior outbursts because our principle, school counselor, special education teacher, and both behavior specialist and already with other students who are acting out. Next year, due to budget cuts, we will be losing both of our behavior specialists. If funding is not provided I am terrified for the outcome of public schools and the students who are affected by these changes. I don't know that there will ever be enough money to provide children the education the law demands and that the children deserve. We do our best with what we have now and we still fall short. COVID set children behind not only in learning but in behavior management as well. If we don't invest in the future now we have no future to look forward to.