

Submitter: Alison Bowden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3357

For the record, my name is Alison Bowden (they/them) and I am a school district IT worker testifying in support of HB 3357. My role in the technology department has allowed me to provide direct support in classrooms and connect with employees at every site in our district. I've also bargained 6 years worth of classified staff contracts, fighting for safer policies and better working conditions for hundreds of employees.

Right now, incident reporting in schools is a patchwork system. While our district has had 1:1 technology for years, staff incident reporting only recently moved off paper forms. This inconsistency means critical data is lost, ignored, or buried. As a medium sized district with access to decent technology resources, it's disappointing how many years it has taken us to make this change- and our district is ahead of many others. HB 3357 changes that. By standardizing incident reporting statewide, all districts, regardless of size or resources, we can finally bring data-driven accountability to school safety.

As you consider this bill, I urge you to expand the definition of "incident" to include environmental hazards and near-miss scenarios. Safety laws are often written in blood, but by capturing near misses and hazards, we can address and prevent harm before it happens.

Understaffing in our schools is not new, but its consequences are dire. I've seen classified staff endure scratches, bruises, and even broken bones. These are not isolated incidents—they are systemic failures. Failures of inadequate staffing, insufficient training, and inconsistent documentation.

This bill is about more than reporting—it's about protecting the people who keep our schools running. Please consider these critical amendments and vote yes on HB 3357

Thank you.