

Testimony of
Rob Lamoureux

On behalf of

Anonymous Educator from a Small Coastal Connecticut Town
Before the Education Committee

Re: HB 7110 AAC Enhanced Classroom Safety and School Climate

February 22, 2019

Good afternoon Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Rob Lamoureux. I am a field representative for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA), where I represent teachers in many small Connecticut communities.

Today I am here to share with you the comments of a teacher from small coastal community in New Haven County who wished to remain anonymous.

"I am writing to ask for your support for HB7110 - An Act Concerning Enhanced Classroom Safety and School Climate.

I am halfway through my 18th year of teaching in a close-knit community where education is both valued and respected. It saddens me to say that over the last 18 years, I have seen a major change in the behavior of our students. While many remain respectful and eager to learn, there is a growing population of students who are not in special education but are distancing themselves from the general population due to disruptive, often physical, behavior within the classroom.

In some cases, student behavior escalates to the point of needing intervention from either the school psychologist, social worker, or principal. These individuals are willing to help, but I feel that these situations are simply diffused and that there are neither appropriate interventions nor consequences for student behaviors.

We simply do not have the staff or resources to be proactively intervening in order to truly be of help. I am becoming increasingly concerned about the lessons we are NOT teaching this population of students and cannot help but wonder where they will be in a few years if they are not taught how to properly deal with their lack of coping skills. I have always loved my job and the relationships I have formed with students but it has crossed my mind more than once that remaining in the teaching profession until retirement may simply be something I am not willing to do.

Disruptive students take a great deal of attention and other students who are interested in learning often miss out through no fault of their own. I believe that this bill includes the answer to moving forward in a positive way to address disruptive students within a classroom.

Thank you for your attention."

Thank you for your time and allowing me to bring this teachers perspective to this esteemed committee.