

**Testimony of
Anonymous Connecticut Educator**

Before the Education Committee

HB 7110 An Act Concerning Enhanced Classroom Safety and School Climate

A major concern regarding school safety and climate is the importance of having injurious incidents reported to the police, especially those involving teachers and certified staff. I was recently assaulted and injured at work during an altercation between two students. However, the principal and superintendent refused to report the assault on me to the police, which is a violation of state law (section 10-233g(a)). The issues of school climate and teacher safety go hand in hand. To that end, it is important that protocols are strengthened to further support teachers who are involved with disruptive and injurious incidents. When a teacher is injured during an incident, as I was, it should be treated with utmost importance and severity by the administration. A school administrator's refusal to report an assault on a teacher, as spelled out in the law, impacts the climate in the school. Currently, there is no enforcement mechanism in the law regarding the proper reporting injurious and disruptive events to the police.

In my case, I was assaulted while facilitating a restorative meeting between two students who had been involved with some social media drama. I am a school social worker at Branford High School and was asked to facilitate the meeting, which both students agreed to attend. During the meeting, they became combative and attacked one another. Unfortunately, I was caught in between them. I was unable to get to the door of my office and ultimately to safety; I was pushed to the ground and grabbed by the students during the altercation. I screamed for help and shouted for the students to stop. Eventually, other staff members heard my screaming and the sounds from the altercation and came into my office to help break it up. Now, almost a month later, I am still injured from the incident. I currently go to physical therapy and have been on different pain relievers, including prednisone to treat a variety of muscular injuries. Despite the law requiring the school principal to report such assaults on staff to the police, the administration determined that an assault on me did not take place. In addition to sustaining injuries during the altercation, I have had to deal with the knowledge that the administration does not support me, nor do they seem willing to confront head on the severity of the assault. I do not want what happened to me to happen to other teachers.