
From: Christina Giuliani [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:12 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; brendan@brendanmaguire.ca
Subject: Bill 75

Dear Brendan,

I am your neighbour, your bottle drive volunteer at Ketch Harbour's Community Hall... Our children have shared in the Ketch Harbour Canada Day Parade together. I've been impressed with what you have been able to accomplish in our neck of the woods. Your story inspires me.

I'm also a teacher; devoted educator.

I am sitting here, feeling deeply deflated, trying to figure out a meaningful way to share what my colleagues and I have been saying for over a year now. Our voices have been blatantly ignored time and time again by our government. Our professionalism has been undermined, our motives questioned, our respect and passion for the profession belittled....but here it is....here is my voice, the only person that truly knows how unmet the needs of my students are. I carry the burden. I carry the burden and shame that I cannot meet the needs of my students, year after year.

This letter has been drafted so many times over the weekend... Writing to you about the daily challenges I face is nearly impossible and quite honestly, redundant, as our stories, my colleagues and I, are one and the same. Rather than reiterate the downright deplorable conditions our students are forced to 'learn' under, those that I am expected to 'teach' under, and the very ones most parents are oblivious to (eg. our severely understaffed S&L Pathologists), I'll share with you my deep, personal, and greatest fear next to my daughter's health:

My two and a half year old daughter has Velocardiofacial Syndrome. As a teacher, I know that this diagnosis prior to school has money attached to it. To her - to Kate Emerson MacDonald, but I also know, unlike nearly all of the parents of children with special needs, is that other students (students that pose a threat to themselves and to others, flight risks, etc.) will undoubtedly steal my daughter's resources, her support system, her EPA... THIS is why I need to scout the 'right' school with the least amount of issues relating to behavioural/academic supports so that my daughter will have the best chance of KEEPING what is owed to her- the equalizing piece that will enable her to reach the highest of her potential.

The Inclusion Committee that Premier McNeil claims will answer and solve the current catastrophe that is our inclusion education in Nova Scotia (one without a drop of adequate support), is a waste of time and money. One reason out of a handful that kept my vote an unwavering NO to TA3.

I am ashamed that I have played a part in keeping parents from knowing the truth of what is happening in our classrooms. Going forward, I promise to withhold my liberal vote should those, like yourself, fail to do what's right for the youth of our province AND I will be transparent to all of the families of the students I teach regarding our duplicitous education system.

Please, Brendan, vote against this incomprehensible piece of legislation and support Nova Scotia's youth. Our students depend on you.

Christina Giuliani
[REDACTED] KH.

Sent from my iPhone