

## Law Amendment Submission

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider the content of this email.

Many of you here today are parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, caregivers. Undoubtedly you know the willingness you have to do anything for your child, especially when they are unwell. Imagine if you would, one of your children waking up looking ill with definite symptoms of illness. You think back to past experiences: did they ever have this before? Did my other children? Did I have this before? If so, what did we do to help? You make phone calls to other relatives seeking advice, you call an 8-1-1 nurse, and you do your own internet searches looking for solutions that will provide relief for your dear little one.

You decide on a course of action; it may be the latest medical treatments available, tried-and-true home remedies, an exploration of an alternative medicine, or a combination thereof. You were thorough, but you know time is of the essence so you make the most of your time and head out to acquire what is needed. With your sense of hope, you arrive at the store only to be told that you are not able to buy the medicine, should not attempt the home remedies, and certainly not try the alternative medicine-YET. Those in charge insist that your child be more thoroughly tested, that the medicines you requested and researched needs to be researched more by a larger group of people (yet to be determined). While you insist that these methods have been researched and tested and their success proven in other cases, in other places, with different age groups, but same symptoms you are repeatedly given the same response-that you are heard and respected but more testing needs to be done.

That hope you felt has turned to disbelief, frustration plagued with momentary feelings of defeat. You certainly do not *feel* heard or respected, despite what you are being told. You share your story with anyone who will listen and others who truly do hear and respect you join your fight. They plead with you to be heard and respected, but as time passes and words are spoken, the actions of those "in charge" still demonstrate you are neither heard nor respected. While you may feel like giving up, you cannot. This is your child who is suffering. You want to help-you need to help-but you can't do everything that needs to be done. You still have the other members of your family you need your attention although they are not ill. You still need time for rest and recuperation for yourself. You can feel the stress levels rising, yet you cannot give in.

Teachers across Nova Scotia know too well how this would feel. They are experiencing it daily. TWICE -yes TWICE, I have seen teachers in tears because of their stress levels. The expectations rose to such a point with all the expectations placed on them-data collection, classroom management, mandatory meetings of committees, planning and recording for students on adaptations and IPPs who need to be considered in **every** lesson plan so that they are included in each of the at least 4 classes taught every day, contacting parents, covering all the curriculum outcomes with the materials in the building and bought with their own money while still needing to have life outside of work.

The most difficult part of it all? We care. We want to help the students who need it most. We want to be able to get the student what they need, but we can't always do it. We have known success and what works (and what doesn't). We are willing to try new things. We have already sacrificed our time, our energy, our personal resources and the hope has turned to frustration, disappointment, and at times resentment - yet we cannot give in because we care.

Please actually listen and respect teachers. Really listen to what we are saying. Recognize that teachers care about students, have researched and will research ways to heal our unwell education system. Restore our hope for this generation of students.

Sincerely,

Faye Joudrey