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**From:** Sara Adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:26 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 75

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the imposed contract on teachers, aka Bill 75. I am both a teacher and a parent and the state of our education system concerns me in both capacities. As well as it violating our constitutional rights relating to job action, I also do not believe Bill 75 addresses the insufficiency of our education system and it will only further erode the relationship between teachers and government. As things stand, I do not want my own children going through our public education system - they deserve better! My husband and I are considering a move to New Brunswick or abroad rather than putting our children in the Nova Scotia public education system. We are long past the time for reviews, committees and councils. There are changes that need to be made to our education system NOW! Some of these changes cost little to no money and some will even SAVE the government money!

Rather than forcing a contract, I propose that the government makes the following changes and THEN sits back at the bargaining table with the NSTU to come to an agreement. This government needs to prove to teachers that they are listening to their concerns by TAKING ACTION to improve the lives of students and teachers, NOT by imposing a contract but by implementing real change.

Changes to be made:

- 1) Place a moratorium on new initiatives and standardized testing until the council is able to meet and review the efficacy of these. (Cost - SAVES you money!)
- 2) Institute an attendance policy reflecting that students need to be in class for a certain number of hours to move on to the next grade. (Cost - FREE)
- 3) Institute a policy repealing any "no fail" initiatives, including the need to adhere to deadlines instituted by the teachers and allow teachers in consultation with parents to decide if and when a student moves on to the next level. (Cost - FREE)
- 4) Implement both soft AND hard caps for all grade levels (P-12) as they are in New Brunswick (no more than 29 students per class, period). (Cost - yes, some but sooo worth it and with the money you will save from #1, it should be more or less break even)
- 5) Commit to hiring more EPAs to support inclusion until the commission on inclusion is able to finish its review. (Cost - yes but minimal)

There are many more changes that could be made immediately but at this point, teachers are looking to see that you are actually willing to implement change for the betterment of students learning and teachers working conditions. ANY action at this point would be a step in the right direction. I implore you as a both a teacher and parent to do the right thing and improve education.

Thank you,  
Sara Adams  
Dartmouth, NS

If you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance...