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**From:** Greg Sutherland [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:19 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Law Amendment Committee, Bill 75

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter as I was unable to travel to the Legislature due to adverse weather conditions. I reside over an hour away from Halifax.

As both a parent and a taxpayer, I have serious concerns about the passage of Bill #75.

First and foremost, I have concerns about the fact class sizes have not been addressed at the senior high. The complexity of today's school subjects requires a ratio of teacher to students that is realistic if students are to participate in meaningful learning. During Work to Rule, the issue of no extra help was brought up by the Premier. It's no wonder so many students are looking for extra help when teachers are having to deliver curriculum to classes of almost 40 students.

Secondly, I have concerns that Bill #75 will ultimately be defeated in court. It clearly violates the Charter as it removes the right of collective bargaining, the right to strike and it legislates the removal of terms that have been previously negotiated in good faith. The collective bargaining process with teachers was clearly under duress as the government constantly maintained the threat of legislation over the proceedings. Also, the court challenge will no doubt cost Nova Scotia taxpayers millions of dollars (win or lose). The recent successful court challenge by teachers in British Columbia cost that province 2.6 million in taxpayers dollars. This superfluous waste of money contradicts the Premier's austerity approach to the economy of Nova Scotia.

Finally, I am troubled by the adversarial approach Bill #75 has taken with the teachers of this province. The legislating of a lower wage than that was agreed upon with the Union Executive is for lack of a better term; greasy. The premise it was the package that was rejected the least is disingenuous at best. It seems the Premier is fanning the flames of discontent with the teachers of this province. His hopes of returning to normal may never be realized as I fear a 'new normal' will emerge from the passage of Bill #75; a normal that will be in the best interests of no one.

I understand the Premier's frustration with the rejection of three different deals with two different executives. We are all frustrated when we hear that. However, negotiations are often difficult and time consuming. The fact that students never left the classroom during the entire negotiating process (except for December 5th) should offer the Premier some consolation that work is still being done in classrooms while negotiating is taking place. The best things in life often don't come easy. And I hope I'm correct in assuming that the Premier wants what's best for the students of this province.

Finally, I urge the Premier of Nova Scotia and all Liberal MLA's to re-consider the passage of Bill #75. In the words of Martin Luther King Junior, "The time is always right to do what is right."

Regards,  
Greg Sutherland