
From: Anne Gosney [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 75

To: Mr Gordon Hebb
Good afternoon.

I am writing to express my opposition to Bill 75. I called and was one of 400 people who registered to speak against this bill. Unfortunately the Liberal government took away my constitutional right by limiting the time allowed for the Law Amendment Committee to hear from Nova Scotians. It is the first time in Nova Scotia's history that such a limit was placed on this stage of the process. Disgraceful.

I write to you today as a parent and spouse of a teacher. I have 3 children in the education system in Nova Scotia. A daughter in Grade 7 and 2 sons in grades 5 and 1. My husband is an elementary school Guidance Counsellor.

As a mother I have seen the gaps in our education system. I have a son with a learning disability. He struggles every day to learn and understand the work in his classroom. He struggles socially. His learning disability has nothing to do with intellect or ability. He is a kind, compassionate and intelligent little boy. He learns differently. He needs to do double the work than most in his class to learn his work. We need to advocate for him constantly. We need to push for his assessments, push for extra resource support and push for him to receive social support from his school counsellor. Our need to push has nothing to do with the quality or commitment from the teachers and specialists in his school. There just is not enough support. The demand far outweighs the available support. Teachers and Specialists are stretched beyond their limits. They cannot meet the constantly increasing demands. There aren't enough people, resources or support to meet the demand. A program that my son should be able to receive at school costs my family \$10,000 per year to receive privately. And he cannot be successful without it. Does he not have a right to the same opportunities as every other student out there? Isn't the education system required to provide him with what he needs to be successful? The government and education department clearly doesn't care. And it makes me fear for the future of my children.

Classrooms are overcrowded.

There are not enough specialists, counsellors, EPAs, learning centre and resource teachers.

Mental Health and learning issues are on the rise. And Education constantly sees cuts.

I also see this from the perspective of my husband. As a teacher and counsellor he has been the victim of violence in the schools. He has heard and seen stories from students that are both heartbreaking and horrific. Students need him and he can't always be available. Because there are so many and he is only one person. Issues like suicide, drug addiction, violence, neglect and abuse are daily discussions with his students. He loses sleep about the students who need his support.

Bill 75 does nothing to support the issues in classrooms. It does nothing to address the concerns that face the most vulnerable members of this province. Our children.

Our children deserve the investment.

Our children are the future of this province.

Repeal Bill 75. Go back to the bargaining table and actually negotiate for what is a constitutional right for teachers and students.

Allow Nova Scotians to have their voice.

Anne Gosney

Sent from my iPhone