
From: Roberta [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 9:51 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Speaking against Bill 72

To Whomever will take the time to actively read my concerns.

I asked to have a time to speak at law amendments last year to have the opportunity to exercise my right to speak against Bill 75. I was denied that opportunity. I do not feel I am welcome in the House; I feel as if I am locked out. I am locked out again as I am denied the right to speak against a Bill, and this time it is for Bill 72. I forwarded my speech last year and only heard back from a few MLAs, none of which were Liberal. My MLA, Ben Jessome said that what I probably had to say would have been the same as what others were already saying, so there was no time to hear from me; another example of my voice being locked out of the House. Please read and respond; I need answers and my voice and concerns are important.

If you were listening to all of the law amendments last year and it is admitted by a Liberal MLA that the same message kept being repeated, why are none of the actual concerns addressed and fixed with Bill 72?

I became a teacher to teach a love for learning to everyone within my classes, no matter the challenges, diversity or needs. This government, Bill 75 and now Bill 72 are making my job impossible. It is difficult to teach a love for learning when my job has become a fight for a safe, respectful learning environment.

I am also reaching out as an extremely concerned parent. My son is in grade one and my daughter will begin primary in September. The school is wonderful, the admin and teachers are amazing, but it is impossible for them to guarantee my children's safety with the lack of supports in the school. How is Bill 72 going to bring more EPAs into schools? How is Bill 72 going to bring more speech language supports into schools? How is Bill 72 going to bring more Learning Center programming into schools? How is Bill 72 going to bring more guidance into schools? How is Bill 72 going to bring more psychology supports into schools? How is Bill 72 going to bring more Resource and Reading Recovery into schools? How is Bill 72 going to bring more occupational therapy into schools? How is Bill 72 going to eliminate or limit the amount of time my children's learning is and will be interrupted with mentally and physically unsafe actions?

When you conduct a meeting, do you feel safe and are you able concentrate when someone throws objects, desks or chairs around you? When you conduct a meeting, can you concentrate and continue when someone is screaming and yelling profanities? When conducting a meeting, are you able to continue when someone tries to hit, punch, kick, bite, spit, or throw something at you? If it is not okay during your meetings and at your work space, why is it okay for my five and six year old who need a safe learning environment to be able to learn and for their own mental and physical health?

What is the point of Bil 72 when it doesn't even address the actual issues brought to you, and apparently bored many?

Please listen this time. Please act this time. Please listen for the future of Nova Scotia. Please act for the students who so desperately need their teachers and admin to be safe and work as an educational team, not as a business. Please vote against Bill 72.

I appreciate if you took your time to make it through my message. I appreciate even more if you actually take this seriously and with the right people in mind. Please respond; I need answers.

~Roberta St-Pierre