SB 80 - Handle with Care Presentation

Senate Committee on Education
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Brad Keating, Director, Government Relations
Handle With Care

- Handle with Care is a partnership between school districts, law enforcement agencies and SafeVoice to ensure the emotional well-being of all children is a top priority.

- A variation of Handle with Care already exists in West Virginia and Michigan.

- Through the use of the SafeVoice Program, police officers can submit a tip that will be routed to a school-based team noting that a child has been through a traumatic experience.
How the Program Works

▪ To respect the child’s privacy, the alert only contains the child’s name, the child’s school grade, and “Handle With Care”.

▪ Once the alert is received by the school-based team, they can provide the child access to school and wraparound services if needed.

▪ The school-based teams consist of either a counselor, psychologist, or social worker, the principal and another school administrator as required by NRS 388.14553.
Why is it needed?

- 60% of American children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse according to the West Virginia Center for Children’s Justice.

- Of the 60%, 40% were direct victims of two or more violent acts.

- There is a severe lack of local statistics.

- We have had children in our CCSD schools the day after a significant traumatic incident.
Why is it needed?

▪ Teachers currently have little knowledge as to why students may act out in a classroom.

▪ Handle with Care helps identify our children in need of school-based and wraparound services.

▪ Allows our schools to better implement researched-based best practices in trauma-informed care.

▪ To help our children succeed in school!
Handle with Care is Helpful When...

1) A serious domestic violence incident at a home

1) Incarceration of a parent, guardian, sibling, etc.

1) Violent crime occurring in or around the home
Walkthrough of the Bill

▪ Sections 2 and 3: Establishes the “Handle with Care” Program under the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment at NDE.

▪ Section 3.1: Creates a definition (not exhaustive) of a traumatic event

▪ Section 3.2: Establishes the use of SafeVoice and the school-based multidisciplinary teams for the Handle with Care program.

▪ Section 3.3: States the information in the report submitted by law enforcement.

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Walkthrough of the Bill

- Section 3.4: Establishes when a school-based team is notified.
- Section 3.5: Establishes the subjects and areas in which NDE will provide training.
- Section 3.6: Allows NDE to put forth regulations.
- Sections 5 - 13: Renames the Safe-to-Tell Program to SafeVoice
- Section 14: Any officer acting in his or her professional capacity may report a “Handle with Care” tip.
Proposed Amendments

Amendment 1
- Allows school districts to use a program of their choice, other than SafeVoice.

Amendment 2
- Allows law enforcement to use their professional judgment, training, and experience to determine whether a traumatic event has occurred.

Amendment 3
- Clean-up to have consistent language of SafeVoice throughout NRS.
CLOSING COMMENTS and QUESTIONS
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