March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Thank you, madam chair and members of the committee. My name is Marie Neisess, president of CCEA. I’m speaking today in support of AB285.

This fall will be my 30th year at CCSD. I’ve spent my entire teaching career working at Title 1 schools with our most at-risk students. We need to cultivate a culture of deterrence that prevents the kind of violent and disruptive behavior we are dealing with in our schools while also safeguarding the environment of learning in our classrooms so that educators can teach and students can learn.

In 2019, restorative justice legislation was passed to address the disproportionate punishment of black and brown students for disruptive and violent behavior in CCSD and end the school-to-prison pipeline. This legislation was passed with the right intentions, but four years later, the lack of resources and proper implementation has only contributed to the crisis of violence in our schools today.

AB285 puts forward solutions to this problem by instating elements of progressive discipline informed by restorative practices, providing alternative placements for our habitually disruptive and violent students, and implementing the necessary wraparound services to ensure that every student in CCSD gets the help and support they need to be successful.

To further highlight why we believe these changes need to be made, I want to share some specific examples of the chronic violent and disruptive behavior we are seeing in our schools today. Here is a list of experiences that occurred at elementary schools across Las Vegas:
  - One educator had her spine fused after being assaulted by a student.
  - A fourth grader punched a pregnant educator in the stomach.
  - Another educator was assaulted by a student, kicked in the groin, and had their wrist broken. That same child attacked the educator by punching them in the eye.
Finally, we are all familiar with the heinous attack on the Eldorado teacher.

This is simply unacceptable—and the victims of this violence in our schools are not limited to our educators. Our students are also being injured and harmed at the hands of their peers:

- At Cheyenne high school, 12 students attacked another student, and the victim was on the floor in a fetal position. They kicked, punched, and beat him until he defecated himself.
- A high school student with a history of sexual assault during middle school allegedly raped a student. The student was transferred to Palo Verde High School. He was later arrested and charged with raping another student.

To conclude, disruptive and violent behavior impacts student outcomes. Each minute of the instructional day is essential to student achievement. Chronic disruption and violent behaviors eat up precious instructional time and erode our educators’ confidence and sense of safety in their workplace. We must act now.

Thank you.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Good Afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Elizabeth Adler. I am a veteran high school Spanish teacher at Sunrise Mountain High School and member of the Clark County Education Association. I am here today to speak in support of Assembly Bill 285 - School Safety.

In the 25 years I have taught in CCSD, I have observed an increase of disruptive and violent behavior which has negatively impacted the educational environment for my students, and has drawn valuable time and resources away from the primary responsibilities of educators, support staff, and administration. Without progressive discipline, we have increased opportunities for students to disregard rules with little or no consequence, increased administrative duties for educators, and decreased instructional time for all students. Students who follow the rules and want to learn are among the victims as their right to an education is undermined.

Numerous schools including my own have spent significant money implementing additional wraparound services to assist students who engage in such behavior. In many cases, these services meant to help students are not accepted by their families when offered.

We want our students to be in good educational environments, learning, interacting and engaging with their peers in thoughtful dialogues - challenging beliefs and ideas through respectful exchanges. However, a lack of consequences has empowered students to challenge the authority of staff and ignore rules put in place to provide a stable and safe educational environment. Administrators are unable to support staff because we have been bound by a law which practically handcuffs us from delivering consequences for disruptive or violent behaviors. There is no real restorative justice for these children and they know we are fearful to direct or correct them when their behavior is not acceptable.
Our children learn how to be in the world through our daily interactions with them in our schools, yet we are showing them control is wielded by those who create chaos and disregard authority. Students and staff need a reinstatement of progressive discipline based upon unacceptable disruptions or violence in the learning environment. We need to remediate behavior in a manner which allows students to deal with their emotions productively and return to the good learning environment which is the right of their peers and expectation of their mentors.

Please support Assembly Bill 285 - School Safety. Thank you for your time today.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Good afternoon chair woman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Kristan Nigro and I am a kindergarten teacher in Las Vegas NV. I'm here today speaking in support of the safety bill.

I have been a dedicated educator in the great state of Nevada for a decade. I'm a recipient of multiple education awards, and I currently serve on the Executive Board of the Clark County Education Association. The past two years, I have had extreme behaviors in my classroom that would make an adult cower in fear. I most recently was told by a 5 year old that they wanted to stab me and watch me bleed out.

Last year on that first day of school, one of my new students came to school very angry. At one point during the day she completely trashed my room and hit another student in the face with a hardcover book. I never viewed books as weapons, but this little girl made me rethink everything I had in my classroom. That moment was not an isolated incident. Every single day we lived in fear. Progressive discipline was never followed. Many times after her explosive behavior, she would be removed and then come back with a lollipop.

Fast Forward to January, my student had an explosive behavior day. My student teacher evacuated my students to safety and I stayed in the room. That student went to my desk, grabbed a sharp pair of scissors and threw them at my face. I was seconds away from having a significant injury to my face. That situation was my line in the sand. I explained to my Administration that if they did not remove the student from my class I was going to leave the profession.

Throughout that 7 months, NO Progressive discipline was followed. That child was allowed to be violent towards me and the other students. The only time she was RPC'd was when the administrators had enough.

It's ironic that we constantly reference restorative justice. It's just a fancy buzzword and a complete failure! My story is an accurate depiction of what Restorative Justice looks like in the schools. It's not working and there is no accountability.
This situation opened my eyes to the injustice for the other students. It is not fair that a student can walk into a classroom and be violent and disruptive without any consequences. During my time at UNLV to become an educator, I must have missed the class where they said my daily regimen would consist of protecting my students from other violent students as well as students missing countless hours of instruction.

I am urging you to support the school safety bill! I am only one educator out of thousands in the state of Nevada. The amount of educators that are dealing with the same type of situation that I have dealt with is terrifying. We are bleeding educators and will continue to bleed educators if something isn’t done! Consequences and accountability are not punishment tactics. It’s what helps shape people into being productive members of society. Thank you for your time.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education  
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod  
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

My name is Tiffany Chimaroke, I have been an educator for 11 years and I am a CCEA Member.

I have been teaching 5th Grade at MJ Christensen Elementary School for over a year. I have 36 students in the classroom, 7 of which are behavior students. Seven students with excessive habitually disruptive behaviors.

One of those seven starts a fight with her peers every day. This student has deep emotional issues where it is hard for her to process her emotions. She yells inappropriate language, stomps her feet, slams school furniture and equipment down, and even uses her Chromebook as a weapon toward her peers. This student has trouble communicating her emotions and needs wrap-around services for her social and emotional learning.

At my school, the procedures for handling this student are to remove her from the classroom for 1 or 2 blocks of time, then she is allowed to come right back into my classroom, for the cycle to repeat itself. So, this essentially places the student in a “time out” until they cool off, and are allowed to return to the classroom when the student is “ready”, with no educator input. The constant fighting and disruptions in class prevent me and many other teachers in the district from teaching during instructional time. Parent Conferences have been offered, sometimes the parent shows up, and sometimes they don’t.

I support AB 285. Please reinstate aspects of progressive discipline for disruptive behavior, provide alternative placements for violent and habitually disruptive students to ensure that each child is provided education, and create wrap-around services. Lastly, there needs to be a policy of zero tolerance for firearms and violent behavior on each and every campus.

Thank you.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Good afternoon, members of the committee, and thank you for your time today. My name is Tiersa Baughman. I am a member of the Clark County Education Association and I have been teaching in the Clark County School District for twenty years. I am speaking today to urge you to support Assembly Bill 285.

This school year has been beyond chaotic. The students understand that they are in control of things to a large degree around the building. They have zero respect for the staff, and they know that no matter what they say, if anything, can be framed as not looking out for THEIR mental health, they will not be held in the wrong. My colleagues and I experience constant classroom disruptions with no real support. I have been told that even with a 1:36 ratio in a general education middle school classroom, I need to do more.

I am a teacher who has been both mentally and physically injured by students. No one really thinks about that. I'm a 100% real person with a real life like everyone else. A student that deliberately knocked me over was allowed to continue participating in their routine in our education community, including school sports, which didn't make sense to me. However, understanding that my school is more about presentation than academia, that's what happened.

Reinstating progressive discipline is very important for the right to an education held by all students, and the ability to teach them expected of all educators. Please support this bill and again thank you for your time today.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education  
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod  
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Hello. My name is Julius Mannix. I currently teach 3rd grade in the Clark County School District. I am testifying in support of AB 285 bill regarding school safety. We need to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for our students if we want to improve our education system in Nevada.

I want to share one experience with you to demonstrate why this is important. In one of my classrooms I had a student with anger management issues. I’ll refer to him as John for clarifying purposes. During the year John was in my class, I had to teach the remainder of my students how to reverse evacuate in the event that John became a danger to the other students in my classroom. One day John threw a chair across the room. After briefly meeting with the assistant principal at the time, John was returned to my classroom the same day. The administrator asked me what I did to cause John to act the way he did. This pattern continued until John told another student “Give students 3 of your mechanical pencils or I will stab you with a pencil.” When the student refused, John executed said threat. He was back in my classroom 2 days later.

I want you to think about the other students in my class trying to learn and grow. How would they feel if you had to see that student in your classroom again? How would they feel when they are unable to get their teacher’s focus because the teacher is constantly monitoring and trying to mitigate dangerous behavior. Is it fair they have to share a classroom with a student who not only threatens them but acts on those threats?

Was my classroom the correct placement for John? Was my school at the time adequately staffed to meet his needs? Is there a better environment for John to learn with instructors that are trained to meet his needs and have the support to do so?

If you want Nevada to improve its education system you need to allow its educators to prioritize learning rather than safety. We need progressive discipline and the systems and resources to address the needs of the student with these issues. Thank you.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education  
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod  
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Honorable Legislators,

My name is Greta Blunt Johnson and I am a member of the Clark County Education Association. I will be speaking from my own experience; I was assaulted by a student a year and a half ago at Canyon Springs High School which resulted in multiple body injuries. I had multiple surgeries and over a year of therapy. I have limited use of my right arm. I suffer tremendous back and right shoulder pain. I needed another surgery on my shoulder, but the doctor refused because of my age and at that time I was 74 years of age. Now, I am on a permanent disability.

No type of discipline was rendered to the student. I believe if the school board had a “Progressive Discipline” plan in place, it would have made the student accountable for his actions. Also, it would relieve stress from all teachers that have endured being assaulted by students in one way or another knowing something can be done.

Thank you,

Greta Blunt Johnson
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

My name is Taniyah Johnson and I am a member of the Clark County Education Association and I am in support of AB 285.

As a third-year teacher working at a magnet, Title I school. Students need predictable, firm consequences for their actions. Otherwise, the unwanted behaviors are not deterred. Integrating this practice with concrete, uniform consequences for violent and inappropriate behaviors is necessary.

In my elementary environment, students who are exposed to traumatic experiences outside of school carry these unacceptable behaviors into school. A student in my class, who spent his early childhood in an environment where violence and mature topics were normalized, has had many write-ups this school year. Unfortunately, this means that he does not understand how to initiate age-appropriate conversations or manage anger with words. This school year, he encouraged other boys to have inappropriate conversations about sexual topics and continues to target girls with overly mature behavior.

His behaviors have not gone away. The other students deserve to be safe from his explicit conversations. He deserves to learn in a smaller environment with professionals who have time to tend to the glaring emotional needs that need to be addressed holistically. He also needs firm consequences now before the behaviors impede his and his peer’s learning.

For these reasons, I support AB 285.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building
Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Madame Chairperson for the record my name is Karl Byrd. I am a 26-year educator with the Clark County School District. I am here speaking on behalf of educators and to support the passage of Assembly Bill 285 on school safety.

Recently, at my school there was a fellow educator who attempted to break up a fight when the educator was pushed away violently by a parent as some students cheered and filmed the incident which was later posted on Instagram. Other students were shocked and bewildered that this could happen to one of their teachers.

Incidents like this are one of the prime reasons why many educators are leaving the profession. The current restorative justice law does not have a zero-tolerance policy for violent behavior which needs to be in place to send a clear message that violence against educators will not be tolerated.

AB 168 has made it more difficult for the Clark County School District to hold certain students accountable for misconduct. If a principal needed to remove or expel a student for a violent act involving a police citation, they previously had the option to send that student to an alternative school for a temporary period. But even those kinds of cases have been getting kicked back to principals.

We need to reinstate aspects of progressive discipline for disruptive behavior, but there are certain behaviors including bringing firearms to school or violent behavior resulting in extreme injury or possible death which must be dwelt swiftly. You cannot have students interpreting restorative justice as a green light to misbehave.

I urge our lawmakers to support Assembly Bill 285 led by Assemblywoman Angie Taylor including the recommendations regarding zero tolerance for firearms and violent behavior, the reinstatement of aspects of the progressive discipline for disruptive behavior which were effective before AB168 and the establishment of alternative placements for violent and habitually disruptive students to ensure that our children can learn, and our educators can teach in a safe environment.

Thank You.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Good afternoon Legislators!

My name is Denise Graves-Judkins, I am a member of the Clark County Education Association, and I am in support of AB 285.

As an educator and a parent, I feel there should be more serious consequences for habitual disruptive behaviors. I understand children should be in school on a daily basis, but these types of behaviors of hitting, throwing items to cause harm to staff is why we need a progressive discipline policy in state law and in school district policies and regulations. Assaults and bringing weapons to schools, is flat out unacceptable behavior by any student. Bottom-line, these behaviors disrupt the learning process for all.

Students need to be held accountable for their actions and a detailed policy of student progressive discipline should be outlined for all educators to follow.

Sincerely,

Denise Graves-Judkins
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in support of Assembly Bill 285 – School Safety. As an educator that has been in the Clark County School District for fifteen years, I have watched the District consistently fail to deal with disruptive and violent behaviors which negatively impact students and staff. It is so important to pass legislation mandating our district reinstate a progressive discipline model to ensure there are appropriate consequences for such behavior.

Here at Eldorado High School, many students do not care how disrespectful, disruptive, or threatening they are to school district staff, their peers, and others. There is little fear of real consequences, and it creates a lack of care for education. Students need to be held accountable for their behavior which threatens or harms others or disrupts the educational environment. Educators feel like our hands are tied, like we have virtually no ability to see that a disruptive or violent student is disallowed to continue harming the learning environment of their peers and teachers.

Last year at my school, a teacher came close to death because a student beat and raped her. Recently, we had three students bring loaded guns onto campus. Perhaps if there were appropriate consequences and real expectations earlier in students’ careers, occurrences like these could be severely reduced.

Please consider this photo of our brand-new perimeter gate and how effective it has been. It’s all well and good to spend millions of dollars upgrading perimeter security and issuing personal panic buttons, but what will prevent a defiant or malicious student from undermining such measures if they have no fear of any real consequence?

Enough is enough! We need safer classrooms and schools. We need to feel safe and empowered in our assignments in the school district. Educators are leaving because of this issue. You can help by supporting AB 285. It is time that we stop the revolving door back to the classroom, the lack of consequence for serious behavior issues, the lack of support for educators who want to
teach, and the lack of assurance for students who have a right to learn. Thank you so much for hearing me today.

Mrs. Anderson-Echegoyen Special Education (SLD) Department Chair, Clark County School District Clark County Education Association Building Leader (CCEA)
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education  
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod  
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Good afternoon,

My name is Gene Griego and I have been an educator in the Clark County School District and member of CCEA for 15 years. I am here to testify in support of AB 285. I am a believer in restorative justice practices, but the current law has been inadequate to meet the perfect storm of student behavior that our schools currently face. I believe that the emotional and physical development of our students is being negatively affected by social media, online gaming environments, popular culture, overuse of technology, and socio-economic pressures on families. I believe these influences have caused extreme classroom disruptions and violent student outbursts to become common occurrences in our schools. These incidents have created an environment where students, teachers, and staff dread coming to school for fear that they will be verbally or physically attacked. I personally have had students use disrespectful language, including vulgar language, make threats, and I have even been a victim of a physical attack. I believe students who are at this level of mental health crisis need immediate behavior interventions by licensed mental health professionals that address their emotional needs, and supply them with relevant coping skills, before restorative practices can be effective.

Unfortunately our current progressive discipline procedures often take weeks or months to navigate, in which time students with serious needs have caused hours of instruction to be lost, put staff and students at risk, and caused toxic classroom environments to develop. I am a parent of children in high school and middle school, and my heart stops every time I get a message about fights on campus or lock downs due to students with weapons. It is obvious to me that we need to provide students with socio-economic and mental health issues quick and effective support to prevent these dangerous situations from turning tragic. Please support AB 285 and continue the work to make our schools safe places for students to learn and reach their full potential. Thank you.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Thank you Chairwoman Bilbray-Axelrod and members of the committee. My name is Jessica Jones and I’m a kindergarten teacher at a Title I school on the east side of Las Vegas. I’m here today in my capacity as both a frontline educator and Secretary of the Clark County Education Association to testify in support of A.B. 285 and reinstating progressive discipline practices in our schools.

While I believe that the legislation on restorative justice was passed with the best intentions, the results have been disastrous when it comes to safety for students and staff. Last year, I was assaulted by a student in my class. This student grabbed me by the arm, threw me against a wall, and pulled my arm with so much force that I thought he had dislocated my arm from my shoulder. I was in pain and had to be in a sling for weeks. After that initial assault, this child continued to attack me and other children in my class with little to no consequence. The excuse echoed to me was that nothing could be done and that my principal’s hands were tied by the law. After recovering, he assaulted me in the same way, I was back in a sling, and in horrific pain.

A few months later, another student in a fit of rage picked up a chair and threw it at me and a special education aid. He then began to punch and hit me and other children in my class. When asked why he behaved this way he responded that he wanted to hurt me because he was angry. That child brought up the other student and how I was attacked when explaining his behavior. He thought it was okay. In my undergraduate degree for education we were taught that all behavior is learned. In this case, the student in my classroom learned that violence is acceptable because of the lack of any discipline or consequences for bad behavior.

Sadly incidents like mine occur more often than they should. I have 25 students this year who consistently witness violence with no consequences. When a child feels unsafe in school they cannot focus. Their attendance and grades begin to drop. The same thing occurs with staff. When educators feel unsafe they cannot focus on teaching or supporting students. It becomes difficult to do my job with the thought of being physically assaulted again by a violent student always in the back of my mind. We need to ensure that every school and every classroom is safe for both students and staff. For this reason, I ask that you support A.B. 285 and reinstate progressive discipline practices for violent and disruptive behaviors.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education  
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod  
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in support of Assembly Bill 285 – School Safety. My name is Jenny Buckley and I am a Fine Arts teacher at Eldorado High School.

I have been teaching for 10 years now at schools all over east Las Vegas, and even graduated from Eldorado in ‘07. This is where I grew up, this is my home! Once a ‘Sundevil, always a Sundevil!! But lately, I’ve been telling myself this isn’t Kansas anymore. Recently, a student in my classroom was escorted out by three police officers for being involved in an incident with bringing guns to school.

Last year a teacher was beaten and sexually assaulted in her very own classroom here at Eldorado during school operational hours. Sometimes I wonder if that could have been me because it happened literally down the hallway from me. Just a week before the horrific incident at Eldorado, my hair was pulled by a student while I was giving a demonstration during a lesson.

Even if it was playful I still felt violated and embarrassed. Students rushed to my side, eager to defend me, but I had to quickly figure out how to de-escalate the situation so no one else would get hurt, all happening in the middle of teaching a class with 40 other students. Students have become too comfortable with putting their hands on each other and staff due to the lack of accountability and consequence. Although there was the intent with implementing restorative practices, it has led to an increase in violence because students are not being held truly accountable. They are returning to the classroom almost immediately, and not truly understanding the meaning of restoration. The climate of the classroom has suffered and I believe this bill will help us take one step closer to refocusing on learning by keeping our teachers safer.

Thank you for your time,

Jenny Buckley Fine Arts Educator,

Eldorado High School Building Leader, Clark County Education Association
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Hello, My name is Whitney Purdy, I teach at Roy Martin Middle School for 4 years as a Spanish Language Educator. And I am a proud CCEA member.

I am in favor of AB 285. Because as an educator, I see firsthand what it looks like to not have a proper plan for a violent or habitually disruptive student. In my experience, students will be sent to the principal's office and return with little to no behavioral improvement plan. There is no transparency or standard procedure to address our students, who need that attention. I want to be empowered and informed to make the appropriate interventions to keep our schools safe for our students, staff, and community. These students need wrap-around services to support them in improving their social and emotional learning and we need to create a structure to provide progressive discipline and have zero tolerance for guns on campus.

This law will clear up the confusion on how to work with habitually disruptive or violent students through progressive discipline and I will be better prepared as an educator.

Please support this back educator school safety bill.

Thank you.
March 16, 2023

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Grant Sawyer Building

Re: Support Testimony for AB285

Good afternoon.

My name is Angie Joye and I am a proud CCEA member, and a second grade teacher at Ann Lynch elementary school. I’m here today to share with you why Assemblywoman Taylor’s bill, AB 285 is so necessary.

A few years ago, I was teaching first grade, and I had a little girl in my class who literally would turn into the Hulk. It could be as simple as me calling on another child to answer a question and that she wanted to answer, she would start flipping desks, and throwing things at students. In situations like these you call the office for help but sometimes help doesn’t come or it comes too slowly to keep someone from getting injured. This carried on for several days and weeks until the principal at my school finally had a meeting with the parent and told her she needed to be there with her child every day to prevent her child from being violent in the classroom. The mother came for one day but couldn’t come everyday. Now this girl moves to another school to start the same cycle again.

The past year, a little boy, let’s call him Kyle, was placed into my second-grade classroom. When asked to do his work, something as simple as “turn to page 5 in your math workbook” his aggressive and destructive tantrums would begin. He would throw backpacks, books, pencils, chairs, and shove desks. Now again, in situations like these you call the office for help but in 10 minutes he’s brought right back and the cycle begins again. I asked the admin what could be done, and they pretty much said nothing. They told me to document everything in infinite campus which is our school database. When I began documenting, I noticed that Kyle had four pages of violent and aggressive behavior from first grade of Kyle kicking his teacher, hitting other students, throwing things throughout the classroom, and nothing substantial had been done. Nothing to stop this behavior, nothing to help Kyle, just nothing.

Every morning, we were losing about one hour of instruction time during reading and sometimes 30 or more instruction minutes in math because of Kyle. As Kyle’s behavior progressively worsened, and my calls to the office became more frequent, I was told to call his dad to come pick him up. I had to call Kyle’s dad every day to come pick him up. At some point, Kyle’s dad wanted him placed into a new teacher’s classroom to see if that would make a difference. Kyle is
in a new classroom doing the same things but unlike me, his new teacher is breaking. She cries on her prep, and she's saying she just doesn't want to do this anymore.

I can honestly say that in my classroom all nineteen other kids were sitting there ready to learn, some scared as they moved their desk away from Kyle, but silently waiting to have a school day. Silently waiting for class to begin, to join a discussion to read in a book, to feel safe in their classroom. It's not fair to them, it's not fair to their parents who sent their kids to school to learn in a safe environment.

Teachers are leaving for good because they can't teach and because they don't feel safe. In the previous year a pregnant teacher quit mid year because the student hit her in her stomach. I have another colleague at an elementary school who was stabbed in the leg with a pencil and in the past year I know we've all read newsworthy stories in this district and many others of the amounts of escalated violence in schools. It is my hope that AB285 bill will give us back a safe learning environment for these kids and for the educators who teach them. Thank you.