

The new assembly bill 330 passing through legislation right now is very detrimental to the future of the school districts and the children in them. This new bill is essentially rolling back the justice measures proposed only a couple of years ago. As a fellow teacher, I find this new bill to be quite severe and unjust, as it would target students of color and neurodivergent students as well. Instead of employing this bill to keep students and staff happier I suggest other forms of discipline rather than suspension or expulsion.

Many kids struggle to understand the severity of this discipline such as many neurodivergent students. Taking a child out of school as discipline often times feels like more of a reward than a punishment as children don't have the capability to understand the severity of the situation. Using punishments like having officers in school, suspension, and expulsion often breeds more trouble and continues the pattern of harmful behavior.

My resolution instead would be to hire more professional help, like more therapists or counselors in school to educate and correct the behavior rather than punish. At my school, Our counselor does a weekly lesson on modern interactions in the world, topics stemming from respect, perseverance, to even internet safety. Having a class to encourage new behavior and practice safety instead of punishing them would be a better solution than inciting fear and anger and punishment.

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