

**Education, Energy, and the Environment**  
**Senate Bill 917: Public Schools – Restorative Practices Schools – Establishment**

**March 6, 2024**  
**POSITION: Support**

My name is Lekisha Carr.

I am a mother and former head start teacher. I am writing regarding the current lack of safety in schools and communities. We need a bill that can help our schools with the resources to meet these needs for safety.

I value education for all students. I have kids who have special needs and disabilities and I have found that often schools are not providing the resources my kids need. I have worked to find outside resources to help them and I do a lot at home, but we need more. My high schooler has bad anxiety around school. He has so many life experiences that have led him to not trust school. The negativity and lack of safety is so high that he doesn't want to go anymore. I need him to go so he can get the academic knowledge, but he wants me to be real with him, and right now I can't guarantee his safety. His school has had two killings and these deaths have taken a toll. Even though my son can defend himself and the school provided some mental health services at the time of these events, the long term issues of grief and violence are still present. We need people who are designated to meet these needs.

As a concerned parent, I want to better our schools. I hope you will do the same.  
Can I count on you to support SB 917?