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House Bill 1292/SB 1019 Public Schools-Special Education Classrooms-Use of Video Recording Devices

Position: Support Ways and Means Committee

2/26/2020

I am in support of this bill to require video surveillance in self-contained classrooms. As a public-school bus driver for many students with disabilities, I have firsthand knowledge about the success of video surveillance on my bus.

Video surveillance helped confirmed my student write-ups for a student that could get out of their seatbelt. The staff could not believe that the student could get out of their double lock seat belt. The bus surveillance video backed me up because of the video recording, which showed the student releasing the seat belt. Now, the student has to have a special lock for their seat belt to ensure their safety.

The video on the bus can be reviewed and be used to identify what's happening on the bus, Identify bullying, vandalism, student discipline problems, and driver safety issues and get the evidence that is needed to resolve problems.

The presence of bus security cameras help in deterring unacceptable behavior and create a safety measure for students and bus staff. I believe this will also translate to the classroom for students who are nonverbal or have limited verbal skills. These students need protections, and a camera in self-contained classrooms will provide evidence on how events can be reviewed and handled just as it currently does on our school buses.

Please support House Bill 1292.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ramona Curry-Briscoe