

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Imagine your child is physically attacked by a bully at school. Now imagine that the school decides to punish your child for being the victim of the physical attack. This is not hypothetical. Misguided school policies currently punish both the victim and the aggressor. This is completely unethical and unfair. Knowing they will be punished, the victim will stay quiet and the bully will continue to bully this victim and others. This creates a toxic environment at school that is not safe and not conducive to learning.

Lack of consequences encourages the aggressor to continue to push limits and puts them on a path that makes them more likely to eventually end up in jail. This bill restores the common sense best practices of considering a child innocent until proven guilty and of not punishing someone for being a victim.

I urge you to give a favorable report to SB0783.

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