

HB0197

OPPOSE

Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools - Comprehensive Plan

I am writing in opposition to HB0197. Reading about restorative justice, it feels like another name for more CRT/Marxism, and defund-the-police, except in this instance it applies to our school system. Instead of making a student who did harm to another student face consequences, you want to allow a potential revictimization of the victim? Why would a victim want to build a relationship with the student who bullied them?

In AACPS, I saw a middle-school student who brought a weapon to school suffer essentially no consequences. Here's how restorative justice is going in another state:

<https://x.com/AnthonyCarneval/status/1865191267795374145>

The number of infractions has dramatically increased, making the school less safe.

I watched a restorative justice (RJ) video from AACPS on how it works and the video made RJ feel like a path to school staff/"community" taking on the role of the parents of teaching kids how to behave appropriately. The students do not belong to the state; they belong to the parents, and restorative justice is an overreach on parents' responsibilities. It does not "take a village" or school community for that matter, to raise the children. That is the parents' job. Therefore, I oppose HB0197. Thank you for your consideration.

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