

Favorable Testimony of Andrea Smedley Hasty: SB0051

Dear Honorable Member of Congress,

I am writing to you as a grandmother, advocate, and a deeply concerned citizen, urging you to take immediate action to mandate the use of cameras in classrooms serving special needs children by approving SB0051.

My autistic grandson, Josiah David Hasty, was abused in not one, not two, but three different schools by individuals entrusted with his care and education. Each time, we were either told that protocols were followed or it was done by another child, etc.. Each time, we were reassured that safeguards were in place, and each time those assurances failed my grandson.

Because my grandson is autistic and was unable to articulate his daily occurrences very well, he could not tell us what was happening to him. We only learned the truth after showing signs of distress and trauma—signs no child should ever have to show just to be believed. When the abuse at the last school happened, he was older, taught and understood to tell us his daily occurrences; this allowed us to quickly notify the school (who had not notified us) press charges, and obtain a restraining order for the employee! Yet, after repeated abuse and systemic failures, I made the best decision to remove him from the school system entirely and homeschool him, simply to keep him safe from the very people meant to protect him.

No family should be forced to choose between their child's education and their child's safety.

Classroom cameras are not about punishment—they are about protection, transparency, and accountability. They protect vulnerable students who cannot see or speak for themselves. They protect dedicated teachers and staff from false accusations. And they provide families peace of mind that their children are safe while learning.

If cameras are considered standard in buses, hallways, and public spaces, and on Police Officers then why are our most vulnerable children denied that same protection in the very classrooms where abuse too often goes unseen and unheard?

I am asking you to stand with families like mine. Please support and introduce legislation that requires cameras in special education classrooms, with appropriate

privacy safeguards, so that abuse can be prevented, documented, and addressed immediately.

Our children deserve safety. Our families deserve accountability. And our lawmakers must act to protect!

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to protecting those who cannot protect themselves.

Respectfully,

Andrea Smedley Hasty
Grandmother and Advocate for Children with Disabilities
United States

Favorable Testimony of Josiah David Hasty: SB0051

Dear Member of Congress,

My name is Sir Josiah King D. David Hasty, and I am 12 years old. I am a high-functioning student with autism. I am writing to ask for your help to protect children like me who attend special education classrooms.

I was hurt in three different schools. Because of this, I am now homeschooled and safe. But many children with disabilities do not have a choice. Some cannot speak up or tell their parents what happens to them at school.

I believe cameras should be placed in special needs classrooms to protect students and teachers. Cameras give a voice to children who cannot speak for themselves and help ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

No child should be afraid to go to school. Please help keep special needs students safe by supporting laws that allow cameras in these classrooms.

Thank you for listening to my voice and standing up for children who cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,
Sir Josiah King David Hasty