

Senators,

My name is Dustin Bane and my son Ashton is nonverbal autistic. In 2018 he came home from school with massive bruising on his back with no answers, so I began advocating for cameras in classrooms because he can't tell me what happens when he gets home.

In early 2022 I begged this Senate to pass the Cameras bill to be my sons voice. I begged FCPS Board of Education to protect my son.

In Fall of 2022 John McAleer was hired as an SEIA in my sons classroom and spent a year with my child. In 2025 he was arrested for sexually assaulting multiple children in FCPS. I will never know exactly what happened to my child, but John McAleer obviously did not just become a monster this year, he's been getting away with it for 3 years because these children are defenseless.

The self-contained classrooms typically comprise of one teacher and 2-3 SEIA's with 8-10 nonverbal children. We are in constant need of more SEIA's and the only requirement is a GED. They will hire anyone that is 18 with a GED that passes a background check, like John McAleer. It could not be more inviting to a pedophile. No barriers to entry and victims that can't tell on you.

There are countless studies that show crime reduces in all settings by approximately 30% when you add cameras. My son deserved protection. There is undoubtedly already other predators that have infiltrated our school system. The opportunity cost of not implementing these cameras now is far greater than any issue that could arise from the implementation.

Thanks,

Dustin Bane