

Representatives,

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 testified here for a similar Cameras in Classrooms bill to be my sons voice. That bill did not pass.

Shortly after in the 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.

I personally sent a complaint and pictures to the school in 2022 for suspected abuse while the accused was watching my son, but there were no cameras to prove what was happening.

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. John McAleer showed us the opportunity cost of not passing the bill in 2022.

Thanks,

Dustin Bane