

Dear Lawmakers,

I get up at 5 a.m every morning, start my morning with coffee. I read and pray for the day. I wake up my boys and we get ready for school and work. I arrive at school trying to be strong and not emotional. I am wondering what the new day will bring. Having to worry about being hurt by a student or attacked is stressful. It has taken a toll on my family. The worst is having nightmares about being attacked. I've been shoved, bitten, chased, attacked and scratched on my face and arms. Others come to me and say they are afraid of my students. I try to protect teachers, kids, and even pets. If something happens I feel guilty.

As a para-professional I have duties associated with providing medical attention and mediation. Working with students I regularly change underclothing; administer medication; secure a sanitary environment; clean vomit and excrement. As a mediator or guard for others I protect other students (disabled or smaller), teachers, and staff from being attacked by students; protect animals from attacks; and pull students off of other staff being attacked. I try to make parents, teachers and students happy.

I care about my students, but I also need a break sometimes. When I have to leave students in the hands of my co-workers and I am worried the whole time I am gone for their safety. Please, we need you to support HB 3318 and to act as soon as possible. We love these children. They have a right to an education and we have the right to be safe. I invite you to come and visit any time, any day and share our experience with these very special children. Thank you.

Para-Professional

Baker School District