

To All Whom It May Concern:

I have heard the HB 2166 is up for an amendment to state that children cannot be expelled or suspended from a Childcare service. I thoroughly understand that we want to provide equity in education, but it must be done with greater forethought. There are children that need more informed and supportive care than our caregivers can supply especially when they are in a small facility (i.e. Facility is ran with only one to two adults). These small sites (especially one-adult-care-operations) cannot always provide safety for the other 4 to 16 children while one child needs to have the FULL ATTENTION OF A STAFF MEMBER even for an hour, let alone the whole day. Especially if we are actually concerned and want to help that child that constantly makes bad choices relearn how to behave in society with positive support.

I realize there isn't enough support staff to come around to various homes to stay for a month to help that singular child and the childcare worker make enough headway while the rest of the children make great gains of growth in their social and, sometimes academic, lives. What might be more important would be letting parents and childcare workers have contracts that give both the freedom to remove a disruptive child from the childcare environment after very short-term trials that try to make some safe arrangement for the child within the childcare facility (2 to 3 days of ineffectual relearning, then 2 to 3 days' of trials, then removal by suspension or expulsion if expected behaviors can't be maintained. If this happens, then that special child needs to go to a larger facility that does have staffing to support that child's learning until the behavior is deemed acceptable to once again go back into a small facility. Perhaps the bill needs to address how we can provide small childcares and parents of challenging disruptive children with more opportunities of Educational School Districts that are trained and could help challenging behavioral children learn and grow.