



Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities



disabilityrights WISCONSIN
Protection and advocacy for people with disabilities.

To: Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald
Members of the Wisconsin Legislature

From: Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin	Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition (SPARC)
Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin	Support Sun Prairie Schools
Disability Rights Wisconsin	Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations
Dodger Community Network	The Arc Wisconsin
Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education	Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools
Mental Health America of WI	Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association	Wisconsin Education Association Council
NAMI Wisconsin	Wisconsin Family Ties
Public School Advocates of Lincoln County	Women Committed to an Informed Community
Parents for Public Schools-MKE	
Schools and Communities United	
SOS-SW Wisconsin	

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Date: November 6, 2017

RE: Opposition to LRB-0917, the "Teacher Protection Act"

The above-signed organizations that represent and support teachers, students, families, and public schools, are writing to express our opposition regarding LRB-0917, known as the "Teacher Protection Act."

All teachers and students deserve a safe environment in which to teach and learn. Unfortunately, the measure does not address improving safety through providing needed supports, services, staffing

levels, and professional development. Instead, the proposal would occasion the following harmful effects:

- Infringing on student privacy rights
- Encouraging ineffective, punitive responses to disability-related behavior
- Creating detrimental linkages between out-of-school incidents and school records
- Expanding the "school to prison pipeline"
- Undermining the administrative chain of command, potentially placing teachers, administrators, and school boards at odds over established policy
- Compromising due process rights regarding suspension for students with disabilities
- Disproportionately affecting students with disabilities and mental health challenges
- Disproportionately affecting students of color
- Imposing unnecessary reporting categories for suspension and expulsion

We request that members of the Wisconsin Legislature join us in opposing LRB-0917.