

Good Morning Members of the Legislature,

Thank you for this opportunity to listen to my son's story.

My name is Laurie Baturin and my son Alex is a certificate of completion bound student in Washington County Public Schools. Alex a quadriplegic, medically complex, non-verbal, and developmentally 12-18 months.

Three years ago when in school his private duty nurse was abusing him. We are not sure how long this had been occurring. One day the school principal was walking past the classroom where Alex and his nurse, alone in the classroom were having quiet time because Alex had just had a series of seizures.

The principal observed Alex's nurse hitting him and saying "You will not do this to me today". Had she not been walking by, who knows how long this would have (or had been) going/gone on for.

The nurse was under the employ of a nursing agency that I contracted to go to school with Alex. Nurses, teachers, and administrators in a school setting are believed to be beyond reproach.

We are always seeing examples of how this is simply not true.

Cameras in classrooms for my son's population are a check and double-check. Now, what do I mean by double-checking? If there is a student who is behaving badly, the school can look at the films and isolate the behavior. This too will provide safety for staff and other students in the classroom. The cameras protect ALL PERSONS IN THE BUILDING.

I know that teacher's unions will give a lot of push back on this. I beg to differ with their opinion. If you are not doing anything wrong, then what is there to fear from the cameras? Right?

The camera films will have very specific guidelines for viewing and are not to be

used for any other purpose than the safety of the school population. Students, teachers and staff, everyone.

So that you have a deeper understanding of my son, I want you to know that Alex started the 2019-2020 school year in hospice care. Every day that Alex is in school and comes home is a gift. Alex is going to turn 20 years old this year, we are all blessed with his gift of unconditional love and laughter. He is as pure and innocent as a human can be. He knows no harm, only love. Every day I put Alex on the bus and kiss him and tell him to have a good day. With these children, this is quite possibly our last goodbye. This is the reality we live in.

Please add another layer of protection with the cameras in the classroom. There is nothing to lose and only safety to gain.

Thank you,

Laurie Beth Baturin and Alex Baturin

17520 Lincolnshire Road

Hagerstown, MD 21740

lauriebaturin@gmail.com

Phone 301 919 1126