

From: Roseburg Teacher
Re: Work Shouldn't Hurt and Support of HB 3318 -1

Dear Representative Doherty and Members of the Committee,

When I took the job as a DLC (Developmental Learning Classroom) teacher in the Roseburg School District, I was not fully prepared or briefed as to what that would look like. I visited the existing DLC classroom in our district, but nothing was ever mentioned about injuries or the level of violence to be expected. I had many years of experience as an LRC (Learning Resource Classroom) teacher, had served students with many different eligibilities, along with behavioral issues, but this was a learning curve I had not expected.

After many set up issues for the new classroom, the students arrived the first day. From the very beginning we had violence and had to watch students closely. We had a 250 pound 4th grader who would drop to the floor, roll and try to trash the room, while hitting, kicking and spitting at us. His language was horrible and we would have to clear rooms so the little kindergarten students would not imitate his cuss words. Also would clear the rooms when he would decide to throw books or chairs. Periodically, he would wet himself while doing this. We had a man size, non verbal 5th grader who would violently hit himself in the head, hit others, grab at others, try to bite us and pinch us and then laugh. Changing his pull up was a two person job, one to stand on the back of the toilet to hold his arms, and one to change him. There was also a man sized, non verbal 5th grader who would shove us hard, not on purpose. We were constantly reminding him to be gentle. One third grade student would yell, throw things, punch, slap and kick us. He has bad language issues too. We had a very strong kindergarten student who would head butt, hit, pinch, and kick everything, including us. Sometimes he would seek us out purposely to injure. One little kindergartner would scream, kick, hit, and tip over chairs. One 1st grade student liked to hit us and throw chairs at us. One large second grade student would run across the room to punch and kick us. This student was the one they gave us arm pads and a big blocking arm punch bag to block with.

During the 2015/16 school year, we counted our injury reports for a month and half and counted 33. This was just a sample.

This year, 2016/17, has been a little better, but have had to deal with many injuries once again. Our students consist of the now first grade student who still head butts, kicks, pinches, and hits. We still block him with gardening knee pads so he doesn't hurt his head when head butting tables and concrete. His behavior is a little better than last year, but he will still seek us out to hurt us. The now fourth grade student will still throw chairs, cuss, call us bad names, hit and kick us. He has a strong punch, by the way. His slaps also hurt. We have one fourth grader who will target the smaller children and us with his chair throwing, hitting, punching and kicking. He has language issues also. The one kindergarten student was held back. She will scream and throw things, tip over chairs, hit and kick.

I, personally, have two separate SAIF claims open. They recommended surgery for my thumb/wrist. (injury from 3/2016) I am waiting until I am done with my physical therapy from this year's injury to see if the thumb/wrist improves before I make a decision. While stopping a violent, charging student two day in a row, I pulled my lower back, neck, shoulder, arm, elbow, forearm, and wrist on the right side of my body. (10/2016) This has been a life

altering injury. It has caused me extreme depression, because I can't even lift anything with my dominant side. Household chores that need to be done, cannot be done. The doctor said, unfortunately, these are the types of injuries that take the longest to heal.

Every week for the first three weeks of the 2015/16 school year, I would go home and have a complete emotional breakdown, crying uncontrollably and exhausted from my job. This year, I still suffer from exhaustion, but have the injury to compound the issue.

I have turned in my resignation to be effective at the end of this school year. I do not feel as though I ever want to work for the public school system ever again due to the lack of concern for our safety in the classroom.