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My name is Robin Pineo and I have been a classroom teacher in Washington County for 31 years. I want you to know that unless you have been in a school for more than 5 minutes in the last 5 years you have no idea what our days are like. While I still love my job it has become increasingly harder and harder because of the inability of many children to regulate their own behavior. We have children that can bite, kick, scratch and punch. We have children that call us every swear word you have heard and more. We have kids that disrobe and

When the law passed that didn't allow the schools to suspend these children there are some unintended consequences. One of which is that other children and adults are put in danger when these kids are still at school. Another consequence is that many parents do not get the help kids need because they aren't affected by these kids behaviors. You may be thinking that surely the parents know that these kids need services. Many times the school setting and what we are required to ask of them is when the problems begin and or escalate. Also, and most importantly these kids these aren't getting what they need here at school and sometimes a suspension shows the seriousness of the situation and makes parents take notice. Please strongly reconsider repealing this law so that schools can have this as a last resort to getting the help these kids need. Also I need you to know that we did not suspend kids unless there was a need and all other strategies had been tried. Suspending these kids was a last resort. Actually there should be another name because most people think of suspension because a child broke a school rule. We used it because this child's behavior wasn't safe for them to be at school.