

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Education Committee thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 82.

I am Donnesha Cooper, the mother of Alianna DeFreeze. This alert was created because of the tragedy that happened to my daughter. For you see that day on January 26th, 2017 I discovered that my daughter was missing and had not arrived to school at all that day. But not because I was alerted by the school which I should have been, but because 10 hours later I called the school because I had a parent teacher conference at 5pm to see if my daughter had decided to wait for me. It was then that I was told she had not signed in. My first response to them was WHY was I not informed immediately? I was devastated because I was not aware of the fact that she was not in school that day. I was not notified that my child had not been in school the whole day. The situation that I am going through happens all too often and many other families have felt my pain. I believe it's time to put our kids back on the school bus so, this is my plea to you to help save our kids.

Chairwoman and members of the committee this completes my testimony.