

## **HB 206 Proponent Testimony**

12/10/24

Jon Detwiler

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 206.

She sprayed pepper spray in another student's face and started swinging. This was in the bathroom close to the cafeteria filled with 200 students. This is the scenario under which I have expelled a student for the longest amount of time during my 11 years as a superintendent. I have never expelled a student for 180 days. Under current law, 180 days is the maximum amount of time I can expel a student that brings a gun to school. After those 180 days, one school year, that student must return to the same building, with the same students and the same staff.

Anyone in the school business must admit that predicting human behavior with any level of certainty is a challenging, if not impossible, task, however, HB 206 will allow a superintendent to delay that student's return to school based on a mental health professional's evaluation and a team approach to school safety.

I believe HB 206 will give schools a better process to reintroduce students to school while recognizing that school safety is our top priority.

Thank you  
Jon Detwiler  
Retired Superintendent