



Tiffini Flynn Forslund, Testimony on Prone Restraint

Teacher

Kipp Northstar

Saint Paul Resident

Dear Committee Members,

I have been teaching and in education raising my adult children for over 30 years and 15 years professionally. I am currently a Middle School Science teacher at Kipp Northstar Public Charter School, and I live in Saint Paul.

I have been an advocate and activist for children and education since 2011 as a Transformational Leader for StudentsFirst, I governed under Michelle Rhee's leadership. AND- I was the lead plaintiff in Forslund Vs MN.

Now to this bill, and the harm it will cause. I work with the children who need us the most to succeed in systems that are not created for them. This bill, allowing for prone restraint and breath restrictive holds by SROs is one of them. I have lobbied against resource officers and the prison pipeline, which all affect student enrollment and success. BIPOC students ought to be able to come to school feeling safe and ready to learn. There is already trauma and fear due to the media, and possible family trauma in addition to social media posts showing police killings of people who possess melanin in their skin. Our school systems are equipped with only 4% teachers of color, who also could be re-traumatized by these holds. To allow these dangerous and life threatening holds, will only cause physical harm to the students themselves, and their peers who witness it.

These air restrictive holds do not protect our children, and this bill would only allow more leeway to use these dangerous holds against children of color predominantly.

Thank you

Tiffini Flynn Forslund