



October 25, 2019

Senate Education Committee

Re: Senate Bill 530

Dear Senator:

On behalf of 4,500 locally elected school board members across Pennsylvania, **we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 530 as amended by amendment A03233.**

Senate Bill 530, as amended by amendment A03233, would require public school entities to take one of three actions when a student enrolled in the school entity is convicted or adjudicated delinquent of sexually assaulting another student enrolled in the same school. In such an instance, the convicted/adjudicated student must either be expelled, transferred to an alternative education program, or reassigned to another school or program within the school entity. Whichever action is taken, the school entity must ensure that the convicted/adjudicated student is not educated in the same school building, transported on the same school vehicle, or participating in the same school-sponsored activities as the student victim. PSBA believes this bill gives schools flexibility in protecting and ensuring that students who are the victim of a sexual assault by another student at their school are not re-victimized by seeing their attacker every day at school.

PSBA would like to thank the bill sponsor, Senator Scott Martin and his staff for their willingness to work with PSBA on an amendment that preserves the bill's intent to protect victims of sexual assault but also recognizes the current legal and regulatory framework within which schools have to achieve this purpose.

I appreciate your time and attention to these matters. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (717) 506-2450 x3337.

Sincerely,

John M. Callahan
Chief Advocacy Officer