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**From:** David VanDeMoortele [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:34 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Law of Amendments Bill 75

February 15, 2017

Let me start this letter, by stating that I have been a teacher for over 10 years and love what I do each and everyday. Teaching students and watching them grow as learners is an amazing thing. I dedicate myself to this work because I love it and it is an incredibly important job. But that being said, over the years it has become more and more challenging to be a teacher. The classrooms are changing, the workloads increasing and the demands are becoming overwhelming.

My current class is an excellent example of what challenges teachers face each and everyday. I am currently teaching a combined 2/3 class, with more than 20 students. Within that class I have students on Individualized Plans, Individual Adaptations and Behaviour Plans for hitting, kicking, spitting and other violent acts. In addition, I have students with ADD, ADHD, ODD, and OCD. That's not to mention the students who require further testing for learning disabilities, students who require guidance and mental health, but have to wait because there are not enough people to see all the kids on waiting lists.

Each and everyday I try to plan new, creative, thoughtful and engaging lessons. Each day I have to sift through curriculum materials, outcomes, indicators, assessments, yearly plans, etc. for grade 2, grade 3, as well as other grades for my IPP students. I need to make sure that it is all recorded and logged into POWERSCHOOL for report cards or TIENET for my IPP students. In addition, there is the Grade 3 Literacy Assessment, "What will I do with my grade 2's while this happens for two full mornings?" A few months later, "Now there is a grade 2 math assessment, what will I do with my grade 3 students while the grade 2 students write?" And on top of it, there is a 15 minute individual interview part that I am suppose to do while the other 20 kids work quietly and independently.

I teach everyday. I am a professional. I have dedicated my life to educating children, and ensuring they are successful. The government needs to show the same dedication to the students, families and teachers of Nova Scotia by not passing this legislation and by making a true commitment to education in our province.

David VanDeMoortele