

We, the undersigned, urge you to appropriate \$15 million (previously linked in the proposed House operating budget to E2SHB 1479) for professional development, technical assistance, and data collection targeting classrooms, educational programs, and districts, to provide proven techniques and strategies that improve school climate and reduce crisis-based student behavior.

Funds will implement systems to prevent crises in classrooms and build targeted capacity across educational program staff, schools, and districts for student supports, in accordance with the legislatively mandated Crisis Response Workgroup Report. This funding will allow schools to begin to put in place the report’s evidence-based recommendations and proven strategies to address challenging behaviors and improve the learning environment for all students.

Throughout the session, during E2SHB 1479-related discussions, we consistently heard testimony that educational programs, school personnel, and our most traumatized students need these targeted supports. This investment will support adults in the building so they can implement needed systems with practices that prevent, mitigate, and de-escalate crisis-based student behaviors and strengthen relational safety for all students.

Andrea Kadlec
Staff Attorney
DISABILITY RIGHTS WASHINGTON

Sharonne Navas
Founder and Executive Director
EQUITY IN EDUCATION COALITION

Sarah Butcher
Director
ROOTS OF INCLUSION

Nancy Chamberlain
President
WASHINGTON STATE PTA

Eric Holzapfel
Director of Field Engagement
LEAGUE OF EDUCATION VOTERS

Katara Jordan
Senior Manager, Policy and Advocacy
BUILDING CHANGES

Karen Pillar
Director of Policy and Advocacy
TEAMCHILD

Kia Franklin
Executive Director
STAND FOR CHILDREN WASHINGTON

Roxana Gomez
Youth Policy Manager
ACLU OF WASHINGTON

Erin Shea McCann
Director of Policy and Systemic Advocacy
LEGAL COUNSEL FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Fernell Miller
Founder
ROOT OF US

Guy Stephens
Founder and Executive Director
ALLIANCE AGAINST SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT

Ginger Kwan
Executive Director
OPEN DOORS FOR MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES

Jim Theofelis
Founder and Executive Director
NORTHSTAR ADVOCATES

Betty Schwieterman

DD Ombuds
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OMBUDS

Cherylynne Crowther

President
SEATTLE SPECIAL EDUCATION PTSA

Nicholle Mineiro

President
ATTORNEYS FOR EDUCATION RIGHTS

Tracy Kahlo

Executive Director
PAVE

Stacy Dym

Executive Director
ARC OF WASHINGTON STATE

Eliza Rankin

Director
SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD

Sima Thorpe

CEO
ARC OF SPOKANE

Taylor Crisp

Parent/Self-Advocate
SPOKANE COUNTY PARENT COALITION

Koi Setorie

Director
WHAT IS KALE THE ART PROJECT

Samantha Fogg

President
SEATTLE COUNCIL PTSA

Brandi Monts

Executive Director
WASHINGTON STATE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
COUNCIL

Lynda Hall

Senior Director, Policy and Government
Relations
TREEHOUSE

Laurie Lippold

Director of Public Policy
PARTNERS FOR OUR CHILDREN

Robin Tatsuda

Executive Director
ARC OF KING COUNTY

Ruvine Jiménez

President
BENTON FRANKLIN COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION PTA

Lisa Brodoff

Professor Emerita
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Ramona Hattendorf

Parent, community advocate, policy analyst

Adrienne Stuart

Parent

Melisa Bowen

Policy Manager and Individual advocate

Rachel Nemhauser

Parent advocate