

**Testimony of Ann Carone, Bridgeport teacher  
Before the Judiciary Committee  
Wednesday, March 30, 2011  
Regarding Senate Bill 1163**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Ann Carone and I am a Business Education and Cooperative Work Experience teacher at Bassick High School in Bridgeport.

On September 17, 2010, prior to the start of my Period 7 Computer Applications class, a male student stole a female student's backpack and hid it in my computer lab. Upon finding that her backpack was missing, the female student began chasing the male student around the room.

As I was at the classroom door supervising students in the hallway passing between classes, I heard a loud commotion in the computer lab. I witnessed the female student chasing the male student around the room. When asked what was happening, the female student explained that the male student had stolen and hidden her backpack.

The same male student had stolen another female student's purse the previous day that was eventually recovered.

I called for a security guard to come to the room to pick up the male student. Upon the arrival of a security guard, the male student was asked to step into the hallway. The male student had to explain where the backpack was hidden because no one could find it in the classroom. I went and retrieved the stolen backpack hidden behind a storage cart in the back of the classroom. The female student was then asked to step into the hallway with me, the security guard and the male student. The guard asked her to check the contents of the backpack to see if anything was missing. She stated that all of her belongings were in the backpack and I asked her to return to her seat.

I returned to the doorway to speak to the security guard. My right hand was on the door handle and the door was open into the hallway approximately one foot wide in order to remain in the classroom and speak with the

security guard. The male student was standing on the right side of the guard and then moved to the left side of the guard-closer to the door. The male student then purposely pushed the door toward me in a very quick motion. It was clear to me that he was intentionally trying to physically harm me. My right arm was forced backward in a sudden, unexpected movement. The student then tried to run away down a staircase but the security guard caught him.

The entire event was witnessed by a fellow colleague who had come to my classroom to assist me in rearranging and rewiring the classroom.

My arm suffered tendon and muscle sprains which required me to have physical therapy twice per week for two months. I was required to wear an elbow cuff to make sure the ulna nerve was not compromised. This injury caused pain and discomfort to me for several months.

The male student was written up in the school's online discipline referral process. The action taken by his vice principal was "student conference". The student never spent one day in detention or in school suspension for injuring me. It is my biggest fear that this student has been sent a message that it is alright to injure teachers and others in authority because no corrective action will be taken.

I urge you to pass **Senate Bill 1163** in order for students who injure any public school employee to receive the justified punishment.

Thank you,

Ann Carone