

To: Whom it May Concern
CC: Marisa Halm and Lara Herscovitch
Date: February 24, 2014
Re: SB No. 54 An Act Concerning Collaboration Between Boards of Education and Law Enforcement Personnel

I am very pleased that, by way of [SB No.54](#), the issue of students being arrested for non-dangerous offenses will be addressed this morning. I agree that keeping students in school is crucial to improving their long-term opportunities. Juxtaposed with the concept of cradle to career, I am curious to know how the school pipeline to prison compares. Schools should have the staff and bandwidth to handle non-dangerous offenses without involving the court system. Some parents, particularly those of color, feel their children are targeted through a school pipeline to prison and that once their children are in the system it is difficult to clear their names. Often when we find such issues occur, jobs are created to address these issues, but how many are given to those with the proper credentials who are from the same race or culture of those who suffer most from this perceived issue?

Should a non-dangerous offense committed by students stay on their records preventing them from getting jobs in adulthood? Shouldn't our over-burdened court system's intervention be reserved for juvenile issues that present threats to the public?

I am very convened about this issue and I applaud the bill. I like the idea of having juvenile local review boards to handle non-serious issues from first and second time juvenile offenders and offer myself to be a part of the solution. Please feel free to contact me any time.

Yours Sincerely,

Sherelle Harris