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I am Lonnie Shields representing the Washoe County Education Administrators Association. I apologize for not being present for the testimony on this bill, but a long standing dentist appointment makes that not possible. I speak in opposition to AB 234, not because I do not believe that there should be policies in place to withdraw a disruptive or dangerous student from the bus, but because I believe these procedures are already in place in Washoe County.

Let me explain the procedure followed. I called Mr. Gary Luchetti, vice-principal of Mendive Middle School in Reno and asked him to walk me through the procedure followed for removing a disruptive student from the bus. Each bus driver keeps a log of student behavior. When the student has reached the point where the bus driver feels he should be removed from the bus a citation is issued. The Vice-Principal or Principal then suspends the student from the bus for three to five days depending upon the circumstances. The parent is immediately called and given the choice of accepting the suspension or setting up a conference between the parent, administrator and the bus driver and the bus driver's safety supervisor... At this conference the decision is made to uphold the suspension, modify it or rescind the decision.

This process involves the parent, the administrator, bus driver and the safety supervisor as requested by this bill. The log protects the bus driver from the accusation of just removing a student for minor or no reason or first offense of a minor occurrence.

In speaking with Mr. Kurt Svare of the WCSD Transportation Department this process works 99% of the time. In large districts we will always have individual instances that will need special intervention by an Area Superintendent or Bus Supervisor. Our process is working.

I am happy to see the bill has been amended from its original form to express our concerns over how the bill would work concerning special education students.

Finally , in conclusion I believe that there is avenue available to the bus drivers that may not have been explored. Working conditions and safety are clearly negotiable items. They should be expressing these concerns through that legally adopted process. This is simply an attempt to negotiate policy through the Legislative body. Thank you for your attention and again I apologize for not being present to be able to answer any questions.