

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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TO: Joint Committee on the Judiciary

FROM: Senator William N. Brownsberger 

RE: Senate Bill 631, An Act decriminalizing non-violent and verbal student misconduct

DATE: July 8, 2013

I am writing in favor of S631, An Act decriminalizing non-violent and verbal student misconduct.

This bill will require schools to solve non-violent behavioral problems in schools through methods other than arresting and prosecuting public school students for non-violent conduct. These punitive measures have fueled a school-to-prison pipeline. Approaches similar to this bill in Georgia and Alabama have yielded positive results, including reductions in arrests and youthful felonies.

I urge the Committee to report this legislation favorably.

