



# S U P P O R T

## MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

### **S.1720 – Ramos / A.6157 – Titus**

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This legislation would amend section 27-b of the labor law to include public schools within the definition of employers required to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence.

The State Legislature enacted Chapter 82 of the laws of 2006 in order to stem the increasing level of violence in the workplace. This law requires public employers to develop a workplace violence prevention program to protect employees from potentially violent encounters. When the 2006 law was enacted, public schools were excluded from the employers required to develop such programs.

This bill would remove the exemption for public schools. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of violent incidents among school employees was almost twice the rate of all other workers. This bill would address this issue by requiring schools to initiate a violence protection program, which would include a risk evaluation to determine if the worksite might place employees at risk of violence and a follow-up procedure to take corrective action. Further, this bill would not only protect employees, but would also create a safer environment for students to grow and learn.

All workers deserve to go to work without having to fear that they will face violence. This legislation is a natural expansion of the existing law and will help protect tens of thousands of public school students and employees throughout New York State.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across the state, CSEA strongly urges the approval of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner  
Director