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Statement: Law Enforcement Leaders Hail Passage of PreK Expulsion Bill

***Bill to reduce suspensions and expulsions in preschool and child care
moves to the Governor after passage today in the Illinois Senate***

Springfield, Illinois — Illinois law enforcement leaders today commended the Illinois State Senate for protecting young children’s learning and development by passing HB2663 on a vote of 48-0.

The bill seeks to provide protections against suspension and expulsion for children in state-funded early education settings. It had already passed the House by a vote of 95-20, reflecting broad bipartisan support in both chambers.

“We urge Governor Rauner to sign this measure into law,” said Lake County State’s Attorney Mike Nerheim. “Troubled kids are the ones who can most benefit from high-quality preschool and child care programs. We want to see teachers and providers get the necessary supports to address the needs of these kids, so that we don’t see them entering the criminal justice system as teens or adults.”

State’s Attorney Nerheim is a Co-Chair of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois. The organization advocates for solutions that are proven to steer kids away from crime. The crime-prevention case for HB2663 is laid out in a new report: [**Kicked Out Before Kindergarten: Evidence-based efforts can prevent suspension and expulsion from early childhood programs.**](#)”

“For those of us in law enforcement who have seen the benefits of preschool, it is a little shocking to read news reports of kids, 3 and 4 years old, who are denied the incredible benefits of early education because they are suspended or even expelled from their preschool or their childcare setting,” said Morgan County Sheriff Randy Duvendack at a news conference releasing the report last month.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS, part of a national, non-profit, bipartisan, anti-crime organization of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, leaders of law enforcement organizations, and victims of crime.

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