



“As a father, school safety isn’t just a policy issue to me; it’s very personal. Every parent knows the feeling of dropping their child off at school and trusting they’ll come home safe at the end of the day. But in today’s world, that peace of mind feels harder and harder to come by. From threats and lockdowns to cyberbullying and online dangers, we can’t keep waiting to react after something happens. We need to start preparing before it does. That’s why I’m fighting for stronger, more proactive school safety measures that help protect our kids, support our schools and give parents the confidence their child is okay.” (A.2494) (A1842)

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“Is My Child Safe at School?”

— A Conversation with Scott Bendett



Scott **BENDETT**

NYS ASSEMBLY



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Q: IS MY CHILD SAFE AT SCHOOL?

Scott: I think that's the million-dollar question. School safety today is not just about what happens in the hallway anymore. It's cyberbullying spreading after school hours, anonymous threats sent online, and "swatting" calls, and because of that, I think it needs to be safer.

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Q: AS A PARENT, IT SCARES ME THAT I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING TO MY CHILD IN SCHOOLS; HOW DO WE FIX THAT?

Scott: I hear you. Ya know, as a dad of two, I'll never know everything, but if we can at least put every measure of safety in place—that's a start. That's why I have proposed a bill that would place certified School Safety Specialists in schools.

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Q: TEACHERS ARE ALREADY STRETCHED SO THIN, SO HOW WOULD THAT WORK?

Scott: Absolutely, so the certified School Safety Specialist would be trained to solely focus on prevention, preparedness, and student safety—taking some of the load off our teachers.

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Q: MENTAL HEALTH STUDIES HAVE RAISED A LOT OF RED FLAGS; HOW CAN OUR TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS HELP?

Scott: Our teachers spend so much time with our kids, and I think that's a really powerful thing, which is why I support mental health and trauma-informed care training as part of the mandatory continuing education for teachers.

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Q: IF KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE IS SOMETHING WE ALL AGREE ON, WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE WE ARE STILL REACTING INSTEAD OF PREPARING?

Scott: Excellent question to which I'll say this—process, politics, and competing priorities slow things down, so reaction is easier in the moment, which is so far from actually giving parents peace of mind. This is exactly why I am pushing proposals that all come from a place of wanting to prevent anything from happening to your child.

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