

## **To whom it may concern:**

My name is Daniel John Sullivan, I work as a para-educator in the R2 special education room (301) at Port Angeles High School in Port Angeles, WA. Like many of the paras in the district, I'm underpaid and often feel disrespected by the teachers and other administrators in the school district; but this is not relevant to my letter.

On March 24th, 2026, I went to the 300 Building bathroom to use the urinal. I had been diagnosed with dangerously high blood pressure a month before and had been on Lisinopril which was making my need for urination more frequent. This bathroom is closest to the special education room I work out of. When I entered the bathroom there were two students there, they were not using the bathroom at all, they were talking on their phones and hanging out. I wanted a little privacy and said "can you give me a minute" and the student said aloofly "no". This was the beginning of an escalation that I take partial responsibility for.

I was de-briefed a bit later by the principal, he read a document to me I could barely focus on because of my state of mind and high blood pressure and forced me to sign it "if I wanted to get paid". I was not in a state of mind to sign ANYTHING at that moment, I did not date the document, I'm pretty certain my signature was unreadable.

The 300 Hall bathroom is a known flash point for gangs and groups, bullies, pop-up restaurants, vaping, and almost everything EXCEPT FOR using it for the toilets and urinals that are available. The bathroom is constantly vandalized by the students. Paras and teachers like me had let the administration know about the bathroom situation for months. I'd call down several times a day about the number of students in that room (sometimes 20+) and no real solution was put in place. At one point I was told that there

were certain times of day, passing period, when NO ADMINISTRATION personnel would monitor or take action allowing the students to rule and trash the bathroom at will.

I will freely admit to making a mistake, and this is not the place to go into all the details. There have been similar cases, involving the bathrooms, over the last several months – teachers, paras, have gotten as upset as me and they were not put on administrative leave or told they might be a “liability” to the district. This is a small town and this kind of action can make it impossible for me to find a job. I have no resources, no money, if I lose this job I will become homeless again.

I had been on administrative leave since 3/26 and was told to “contact no one”, except they knew I worked in the same room as my brother, George. With less than 24 hours notice and fully knowing (at this point) my heart condition, I asked for accommodation I told the district HR professional that my blood pressure was spiking and I did not feel comfortable going into this meeting without a better idea of what was happening next. Part of this time off was Spring Break – ask me if I had a fun Spring Break? His answer was “we don’t do that here”.

The outcome of today’s meeting (4/8) was ambiguous and hostile: meaning I felt hostility from both the principal and the HR professional and they left me with a vague timeline. I could only conclude that I needed legal help.

I spent several hours today trying to find a lawyer on the peninsula or in Seattle or anywhere in WA state and the answer was “we don’t defend employees against school districts”. I am desperate and feeling hopeless, and so I’m contacting you – now you’re wondering why.

I am seeking legal support of some form and right now I feel as if there are no resources for people like me.

I am not a perfect person, I did not end up in the district on purpose. My brother and I were both homeless, living out at the local park, and at that point we decided (in our 50's) to join AmeriCorps; arguably with the mercenary purpose of trying to avoid street homelessness. But if you ask the adults that work with me in 301, the woman I reported to during AmeriCorps (23-25), I can say with certainty that they support me and believe I am helping the kids.

I don't have any money: after I pay rent I have about 600 dollars left for food and emergencies. So, I can't afford to pay any of you or anyone you'd recommend. I have medical bills I can't pay right now and I very well may go bankrupt.

**Here is what I want: I don't want to take money from a district that is likely already near broke. I don't want to punish other poor people in the district by extracting money that is not there and putting other programs at risk. The purpose of my lawsuit would be employee rights based and not a payday. I WOULD PREFER A MEDIATED SETTLEMENT and I see no reason to drag the district through the mud or create a stigma. I don't want anyone to get fired, I just want my job BACK and to be free of the fear of reprisals for myself or my brother during contract renewal in a few months. And ALSO: they need to shut down the 300 hall male bathroom until they find a proper solution to the problems there, if not this situation will repeat itself.**

A letter from an attorney might be all that is required, and I know that's still a big ask.

I have run out of options, I am not hopeful given the current state of society that I will receive any help – but please have a great day and prove me wrong.

Yours,

Daniel John Sullivan