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Hon. Laurel Broten, MPP
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Dear Minister,

I am somewhat taken aback by one of your party's leadership candidates, Kathleen Wynne, who was quoted saying that resolution to the crisis in education will not come until after the Liberal leadership race to succeed the current party leader. If true, putting the Liberal Party of Ontario's interests ahead of children in classrooms is shocking and unacceptable. Given some ETFO union locals have indicated strike action for next week, you need to clarify the government's position immediately.

I take no pleasure in writing this letter, but after your silence during this crisis in Ontario's education system, I feel obligated as Official Opposition critic to remind you of your responsibilities as minister and the tools that you have at your disposal within Bill 115 to re-impose some semblance of order in our schools. You are the Minister and you are ultimately responsible for education in this province. You cannot continue to shirk this responsibility even when under pressure to do so by your former colleagues. While we may disagree at times, I think we can both agree that governments exist to protect those elements of society that cannot speak for or protect themselves. Children have the right to an education and they do not have a union representing them, nor do they have a seat at the cabinet table. It is up to you to protect their interests and under Bill 115 you have the tools to do so.

Therefore I ask that you make an unambiguous statement as to where the government stands in this crisis by warning rogue union leaders that illegal labour action will result in stiff fines and penalties to the fullest extent of the law, a law that you passed with the assistance and support of the Official Opposition. Few times are laws passed in any chamber where both the Government Party and the Official Opposition are on the same page. To back track now is irresponsible and a complete abdication of your responsibilities as a government. Ontario's parents and most importantly school age children - our most valuable resource await your reply and your action.

Kindest regards,

Lisa MacLeod, MPP
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Ontario PC Education Critic