

Lisa Cataldi

From: Heather Bettez <fosheather2@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 11:40 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of H-7221

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara Chair, House Committee on Education, State House, Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of H-7221

Chair McNamara:

My name is Heather Bettez and I am testifying in support of H-7221, a bill that would strengthen parental rights in the IEP process. The way things are currently, an IEP can be changed without parent consent. In addition to this, when changes are made, whether to a student's placement or based on evaluations, the parent doesn't get to review evaluations prior to the meeting or visit the new educational setting.

This bill would:

- Require schools to share evaluation reports and other important documents with parents in advance of IEP meetings;
- Give parents the right to observe placements proposed for their children; and
- Restores the requirement to obtain written parental consent before implementing changes to a student's IEP.

I am supporting this bill because...ADD PERSONALIZATION TO THE LETTER HERE

- Share an anecdote/story that is relevant to the bill
- Share facts or statistics
- Keep your list of reasons to three-to-five primary points
- Make your case strongly and succinctly, if possible, limit written testimony to one to two pages.

I urge you to vote in favor of bill H-7221.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak in favor of H-7221.