

Lisa Cataldi

From: Jesse Berardinelli <JBerardinelli@highbarhealth.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 8:58 AM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of H-7221

March 13, 2024

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

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of H-7221

Dear

Chair McNamara:

My name is Jessica Berardinelli 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 I have a two children in the school system, one of which has an IEP and has been diagnosed with Autism. It is incredibly important to me that children with IEP/504 Plans receive fair and timely services with clarity and support from the schools and parents. I strongly urge you to pass this bill for bridge the gap between school and parents all while having the same common goal.... SUCCESS for our children.

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.

Sincerely,

Jessica Berardinelli

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