

March 13, 2024

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

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of H-7271

Chair McNamara:

My name is ___Keyra Fernandez_____ 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...if I had not been involved my kid would be non verbal and not able to sustain himself in the future.

School made an assessment based on bias and took an approach that harmed my kid social emotional development should my right be taken away more than an strabismus surgery where to happen as him not being able to talk.

I urge you to vote in favor of bill H-722.

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