

Lisa Cataldi

From: Maura Bettez <mlavin5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 11:16 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

Chair McNamara:

My name is Maura 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 it will help me to help my 4 1/2 year old son immensely who is currently on an IEP and receives speech and OT in the Coventry school systems. The IEP is a confusing topic and any help would be appreciated. My son is level 3 autistic and non verbal and could use all the help we can get in the special education area. Please support our kids and families. We need a voice, you can be that voice.

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

Thank you for your time,
Maura Bettez

Sent from my iPhone