

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** House Education Committee  
**To:** Sarah Glover-Nasso  
**Subject:** RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of H-7721

**From:** Sarah Glover-Nasso <sgn@thebrowncenter.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:29 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee <HouseEducation@rilegislature.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of ~~H-7221~~ **H7721**

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 Sarah Glover-Nasso, a mother of an autistic student 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 parental 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 the success or failure of that child's education falls squarely on the child's parents; this is fact. Parents are the foundation of a child's life, their advocate in and out of the classroom, and because they best know their child. Whilst the IEP team is invaluable, the parent cannot be left to the side with little time to prepare.

- *My child has been out of the classroom for nearly 3.5 years due to the COVID pandemic. He is 11 years old today. Because of the failure to recognize the special needs students during this crisis, my son is now at Bradley Hospital in the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. My son is hospitalized because of the inability to execute*

*his IEP during COVID. **The value of IEPs and how they protect a child is immeasurable.** Parents need all the help they can get in order to best serve these special and complex 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-7721

Sarah Glover-Nasso

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Please note, my work day may- look different than your work day.

Please- do not feel obligated to respond outside of your normal working hours.