

Submitter: Brenda Cyrus
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1552

My granddaughter has been diagnosed with high functioning autism spectrum disorder. Despite her intelligence she really struggled in traditional public school. When the pandemic forced the continuation of distance learning, which was even harder for her than traditional school, I began researching other options for her education. Originally I was going to homeschool her but that presented difficulty as I work full time.

While looking at on line supplements I found a charter school designed for neuro-divergent children like her and it has been the best thing to ever happen for her education.

She transformed from a depressed and anxious child who could barely pass her classes to a confident teen who is getting high marks in all her classes. She now loves school again as she did when she was little.

Her charter school had to intervene on our behalf to get her enrolled due to the 3% cap on these types of enrollments. If they had not been successful I fear that her mental health would have deteriorated even further and keeping her engaged in her education might have become impossible.

All families need to have the option of choosing the education that best suits their child and not be forced to continue with traditional public schooling that might actually be detrimental to their child's education and mental health.

Sincerely,
Brenda Cyrus