

Submitter: Mindy Parker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2895

I am a parent of a child with a disability that receives special education services in her local school. It has been clear her whole school career so far and is increasingly clear now at the middle school level that all educators in her school need additional support in their buildings and from their school district with providing a free and appropriate education. It is mind boggling how much time teachers must put into providing the supports my child needs per her IEP, that teachers aren't trained or have access to versions of curriculum that my daughter can access, and must "recreate the wheel" for almost all things. We must not forget that special education is a service and the supports must be given to all teachers to provide for an inclusive education for children with disabilities. This means all supports such as trained educators and support professionals, available technology, inclusion in all school activities, peer supports and peer education, curriculum that is indeed differentiable and age appropriate, specific instruction as needed, and more. We need to stop sending the message to our kids with disabilities or kids on IEP's is that we do not truly value them in our schools, and furthermore that sets a tone for our communities, and their lives. Implementing HB 2895 will be a good start to showing these kids and their families that they are indeed valued and their lives matter.