

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the Committee, For the record, my name is Deb Patterson, Senator in District 10, representing South and West Salem, Monmouth, and Independence. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB 819-A today. And I am grateful to Senator Gelser Blouin for her leadership on this issue.

This measure simply requires school districts, before considering or recommending a student with a disability for an abbreviated school day program, to document reasonable efforts to provide meaningful access to the same number of hours of instruction or educational services that are provided to the majority of other students who are in the same grade within the student's resident school district.

The operative words here are "reasonable efforts." That should be reasonable.

And "meaningful access to the same number of hours of instruction or educational services that are provided to the majority of other students who are in the same grade within the students resident school district."

This parity in access to educational opportunities is protected by the ADA.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities, including education. The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability just as other civil rights laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion.

As a parent who has had a child placed – at the age of four – on an abbreviated program, and who had another child placed into a classroom with vastly different educational opportunities – for six years – I stand squarely with Senator Gelser Blouin, and with the other Senate Sponsors, namely, President Wagner and Senators Knopp, Dembrow, Gorsek, Hayden, Jama, Manning, Anderson, Campos, Frederick, Golden, Hansell, Leiber, Meek, Sollman, Taylor, Thatcher, and Weber, in urging you to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.