

Submitter: Lisa Ledson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: SB819

Good afternoon, Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Hudson and Wright, members of the committee, my name is Lisa Ledson, and I am here today as a concerned parent of a bright and eager 5th grader. I want to express my full support for SB819-A13, which aims to create fair and equitable access to education for students with disabilities, like my daughter.

For most of this school year, my daughter has not been able to access her education like her peers or her twin sister. Her unique needs have been overlooked, and her potential left untapped. This bill seeks to change that by ensuring that the individualized education program (IEP) team takes into account the student's specific needs and involves the parent in the decision-making process.

The impact on my daughters mental health has been devastating for her. She is angry, she is sad and she asks to see her friends in her class daily. Throughout all my years of parenting, the most heartbreaking sight is to see one of your twin daughters walk out the door to go to school and the other ask where she is going and why can't I go with her... only to have the one who got to go to school come home and feel horrible that she is allowed to go.

SB819-A13 mandates that school districts cannot base placement on an abbreviated school day program solely on a lack of resources. It is essential that my daughter and other children with disabilities receive the same opportunity to learn and grow as their peers.

As a parent, I want to be meaningfully involved in my child's education. This bill allows for that by requiring a meeting with the student's IEP team to discuss any proposed changes to the student's program. It also grants me the right to withdraw consent for an abbreviated school day placement or request a meeting to discuss alternatives.

SB819-A13 ensures transparency and accountability by requiring documentation of the abbreviated school day program, the student's progress, and the expected timeline for a return to a full school day program. Moreover, it allows parents to revoke consent for such a program and guarantees that the student will be provided with meaningful access to education within five school days of the revocation.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB819-A13. It is a vital step towards creating a more inclusive and equitable education system for all students, including my

daughter and others like her who deserve the same opportunities for success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lisa Ledson
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