

Submitter: Andryce Andres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: HB3053

Hello,

I am a speech-language pathologist and have spent more than 11 years working with children and youth who use AAC. I have organized and/or led AAC day camps since 2016 in both a clinical setting, as well as an outdoor park setting. An overnight camp with a focus on supporting individuals who use AAC alongside their family members would provide much needed AAC advocacy, community building, and training of tools and technology related to AAC. Further, graduate students are in dire need of training and experience working with AAC users and family members. An overnight camp would provide insight of daily and overnight needs and considerations of AAC users, thereby widening the lens of holistic communication needs in a natural social-interactive setting. Additionally, the experience would be an opportunity for students to work in collaboration with AAC users and their families in supporting their communication needs. Again, this widening of the lens into partnership and collaboration would have the potential to imprint on the students more than the technical AAC knowledge and skill. Rather, students would have an opportunity to learn deeply about neurodiversity, the range of communication strengths and communication modes, and potentially become lifelong allies and advocates of the Disability Community.

Thank you for supporting Measure HB 3053,  
Andryce Andres, MS, CCC-SLP  
[www.heartspeakslp.com](http://www.heartspeakslp.com)