

Submitter: Joel De Gan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

To whom it may concern,

As a parent deeply invested in my child's well-being, I have directly observed the critical need for removing the cap on special education funding. My son thrived in his kindergarten program with appropriate support. However, due to staffing changes and a lack of resources, he was placed in a school for children with severe emotional dysregulation where his needs were met, but he was exposed to violence. Our local school indicated that they lacked the resources and training to accommodate him.

My son was exposed to violent students, and after graduating from that program he himself was a victim of violence, in a general education classroom because the district lacked the funding and resources to move students to appropriate settings. His current special education classroom is overwhelmed and under-resourced, serving multiple districts without proper support. They are unable to move violent students to appropriate programs when they need additional support which is unacceptable.

Removing the cap is not simply an administrative change; it is essential for ensuring all children who need special education services receive them and are in appropriate settings. This bill is vital for providing adequate resources and support for students with disabilities and helping schools meet the needs of all children with disabilities, including those who lost access to services during the pandemic. I urge you to support this bill and remove the cap. Our children deserve the opportunity to thrive, and removing the cap is a critical first step to ensuring our schools have the funding and resources to provide appropriate support.

Thank you for your time.