

Submitter: Kali Piro McQueen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2448

Dear Members of the Legislative Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to increase the amount of money transferred each fiscal year from the State School Fund to the High Cost Disabilities Account. As an early childhood Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), I work directly with children who have a range of disabilities, and I have seen firsthand how crucial it is to ensure that adequate funding is allocated to support these students.

Early childhood is a critical time for developing foundational communication skills, and many of the children I serve have complex needs that require specialized, intensive interventions. These children may have severe speech delays, language disorders, or other cognitive and communication challenges that impact their ability to succeed in school and in life. Unfortunately, the resources needed to provide appropriate, individualized services for these students often exceed what is available through standard funding mechanisms.

Increasing the amount of money transferred to the High Cost Disabilities Account would provide much-needed financial support for districts that serve students with these high-needs disabilities. It would ensure that we can continue to provide high-quality therapy services, including speech and language therapy, to the children who need it most. Without adequate funding, we are often forced to stretch limited resources, leading to larger caseloads, reduced therapy time, or even delays in providing the services that children urgently need.

The positive long-term impact of early intervention cannot be overstated. The sooner we are able to provide speech and language therapy, the greater the likelihood that children will catch up to their peers, improve academically, and gain essential skills for socialization and independence. By increasing the funding available for high-cost disabilities, we can ensure that these children receive the early support they need to thrive, which will ultimately lead to better outcomes for their education and overall well-being.

In my work as an SLP, I witness daily the difference that early, specialized intervention makes in the lives of young children. The funding from the High Cost Disabilities Account allows us to address their unique needs with the attention and care they deserve. By increasing the funding allocation, we are making an investment in the future of our most vulnerable students—ensuring that they are not left behind

due to financial limitations.

I urge you to consider the importance of this proposal and the profound impact it will have on the lives of young children with disabilities. I respectfully ask for your support in increasing the funding for the High Cost Disabilities Account, as it is a critical step toward providing equitable access to high-quality education and services for all students, regardless of the challenges they may face.

Thank you for your time and attention to this vital matter.