

Submitter: Andrew Haynes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB989

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to share some personal experiences regarding the challenges faced by individuals with Autism and Epilepsy, particularly in the context of childhood development and support.

Throughout my upbringing, I encountered a range of detrimental remarks from my father, including threats of being institutionalized and derogatory language. These experiences had a significant negative impact on my well-being. I believe that if this bill passes it will allow an environment where children feel unsafe or threatened based on their disabilities.

During my high school years, I often experienced seizure auras and, rather than receiving appropriate support, I felt a sense of isolation and fear. There were instances where I had absent seizures in class, which led to misunderstandings and ridicule from peers, rather than compassion or assistance.

I understand that raising a child with disabilities can present challenges for families. However, I believe that increasing access to family counseling (from a licensed counselor) and fostering a greater understanding of disabilities can provide healthier ways to accommodate these challenges. It is essential to recognize that individuals, including children, are not perfect and may require additional support and understanding.

For these reasons I cannot support this bill

Sincerely,

Andrew Haynes