

Submitter: Emily Henson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

I have been a special education teacher for 8 years. I have only seen the need for early, quality intervention rise in the last few years. Capping at 11% is not equitable. It is ridiculous to say that students with disabilities only deserve 11% of funding. Equity is not about everyone getting the same thing. Equity is about everyone getting what they need. Students with disabilities who get the supports that they need thrive in our schools. The most frustrating part about being a special educator has never been the students, it has always been how hard we have to fight, how much of our own money we have to spend, how much we have to push for our students to get the help they deserve. The need is only growing. I see more and more students coming in with ADHD and Autism. I have taught kindergarten for the last 3 years. This next year, we have 26 incoming kindergartners who need special education services. This makes up over 40% of our incoming Kindergarten class. Why would we say that they only deserve 11% of funding.

We, as educators, are tired.

We know that with the right support, these students can blossom into happy, healthy members of society that make our state a better place to live.

Please, choose right over easy. Choose the children over the savings.