

Submitter: Sarah Mullerleile
On Behalf Of: My preschooler and our family
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

Hello and thank you for your time. My autistic preschooler is directly flourishing and benefiting from these underfunded services- please don't cut funds, add them. He is learning and growing, and especially at this young age, the more supports and services he has now (and as he grows) are setting a strong foundation for him. He wants to learn. He wants to be social with the world. He wants to participate. I believe in him, I advocate for him. He needs these services- his team/s have helped him so much! His preschool has helped him so much, because they get funding to train staff, and provide supports to him so he can be successful. He's so happy - please don't deny these services to others. Please don't take these services from him. If anything, the current educational services and preschool program (and various other supports) are already underfunded, which is a shame. I urge you, please help get more staff, more resources, more research, more training, more technology. I don't know what our family would be doing without supports, education, and services, and we are only receiving these services because he won a lottery. My autistic preschooler loves his routine, his supported learning, his teachers/teams/peers. He is so happy. He is successful. He is included. He is autistic, but the sky's the limit- and all because of these programs and staff. They are all setting him up to continue to be able to learn and grow at his own pace and in his way. With that in place, I truly believe that he will be able to do anything his peers can, and hopefully even participate in a general education classroom when he enters public school. Every child is different, every child deserves to be given education and supports to help them reach their full potential as adults. They will one day run this nation, and I support them all in having the best, so they can be the best - and make us proud to be Americans. The children are our future. They are worth the investment. I hopefully have made my points clear. I appreciate you, and thank you.