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To: Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire and Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Terrisa Langston, Business Partner Consultant – Healthcare

Subject: Supporting HB 3007

This is a necessary change to meet the educational needs of students who are not currently being met. Students being diagnosed by a licensed healthcare professional are diagnosed with specific diagnosis code and should not be treated as "non-specific" for the purpose of potentially being eligible under other categories. This diagnosis will not change throughout the lifecycle of their educational needs and support services into adulthood for these individuals. It is important for a correct diagnosis for treatment, management plans and interventions to ensure the best possible outcome for students.

From a global perspective (local, state and federal) an early and correct diagnosis will pave the way as an individual enters or reenters into the school and/or public healthcare system as a child or an adult. This is and should be a coordinated care effort between a network of providers, educators, support and navigational systems. If a child is incorrectly or left undiagnosed, this is detrimental to the outcome and success throughout their lifetime. From childhood into adulthood this should be a seamless transition of care and services that an individual is eligible for and receives once they have met the said threshold criteria.

The purpose of a medical diagnosis and recognizing an acquired brain injury is a crucial component in developing an effective treatment plan and strategic support that is tailored to the individual's recovery, short- and long-term needs. Why should this be any different from an educational perspective... As our education prepares us with essential skills and knowledge needed to navigate throughout our lifetime. If an acquired brain injury is not recognized as such in the educational system and instead inadvertently falls into another category it creates a gap in care and services, equality and ultimately strips a child of their opportunities to succeed throughout their lifetime.

Terrisa Langston, HRBP