

Submitter: Hannah Stewart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1572

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee: My name is Hannah Stewart - I work as a case manager for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and I oppose Bill 1572. This bill threatens equal access to education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as it leads to the exclusion of students due to unintentional disability-related behaviors under the vague term/standard of "repeated interference." This term is unclear and may be interpreted in different ways by different educators. Removing students from the classroom interrupts learning time, and is harmful to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who need consistency and structure in their learning environment. Punishment and removal from the classroom should not be the response to a disability-related behavior. Students should instead be met with additional support and creative ways of communicating. To protect the safety and the education of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, I urge you to please vote no on this bill.