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HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
HB0714: SPECIAL EDUCATION- LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN-REQUIREMENT
Hearing date: February 10, 2021

Senate Bill 714 would require a school IEP team to create a document outlining services and supports in the event of a school closure of 10 or more days. This pre-planning would enable the IEP team, that includes parents, to discuss what services and strategies for their student can be employed in the virtual environment.

My son has been on an IFSP and IEP for speech/language impairment since he was 2 years old. He is now 10 and in the 5th grade. In April, a month after the initial school closing for the COVID-19 pandemic, I received an Individualized Continuity of Learning Plan (ICOLP) from my son's case manager describing the "services" he would receive for the rest of the school closure. The services he was offered were office hours for his parents and a worksheet on which I could use to help him with one the phonemes he was working on in his IEP goals; in this case /r/. Had this discussion been had during his annual IEP meeting the entire team could have discussed the goals he had and which could be done by a parent, neither of whom are trained speech language pathologists (SLPs). I declined that version of the ICOLP because without the 6 years of specialized training of a SLP I would not be able to teach a speech impaired child the proper tongue, lip and jaw placement needed to make a correct /r/. The team had to discuss doing another IEP goal that was more in line with the skills of the family.

By passing this bill, families will be a part of the discussions from the very beginning. Precious time will be saved by having a contingency plan written and ready to implement in the event of extended school closure. Student regression will be minimized as will the need for time consuming and costly compensatory services.

Please support HB 714.

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