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WAYS AND MEANS

HB714: SPECIAL EDUCATION- LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN-REQUIREMENT

Hearing date: February 10,2021

House Bill 714 would require a school IEP team to create a document, in advance of a prolonged school closure, services and supports that a student with disabilities will need IF another emergency/pandemic occurs in Maryland. In March, HCPSS sent to me a document outlining goals and objectives that my daughter would be working on during virtual learning. The school - based team did not include me or ask for parental input to review what the school would offer as a FAPE in this document.

Over 30% of her important goals and objectives moving her to career and development opportunities, as well as all OT and PT were ceased. The school team was not able to identify different strategies and accommodations to ensure work in these areas. Her PT and Behavioral Therapist has not given input in meetings, during this pandemic, to ensure progress on goals in these critical areas. Therefore, she is having significant regression in her ability to walk long distances, use a walker to navigate hallways and work towards progress on many of her individualized IEP goals.

By passing this bill, parents can be assured a seat at the table to identify specific needs for in home virtual lessons/hybrid learning in advance of a prolonged school (brick and mortar) closing. Please do not allow school districts to continue to make an offer to students that does not meet their IEP and individualized functional goals during the rest of this pandemic or future prolonged school closures. By planning in advance, school districts can identify how they will meet the needs of all students with IEPs and potentially minimize their pay-outs in compensatory services and due process. Please support HB714.

Sincerely,

Lori E Scott