

Subject: Favorable HB 1181
To: House Ways and Means Committee
From: Teresa Graham
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Please support HB 1181/ SB 921. I am very fortunate to have been provided with an excellent education that prepared me for the future. I currently have children in both college and high school. My blind child does not have the same educational opportunities that I had or what my other children have.

My daughter, who is now in 9th grade, has had accessibility issues throughout her whole education. Covid-19 has made things worse. Our schools are not following through with accessibility laws or perhaps schools are not aware of what blind students need to succeed. Therefore, I strongly urge you to help our schools, students and the parents by voting in favor of this bill. Blind students have a better success rate if given the proper tools.

In some of the classes, my daughter Naudia cannot socialize and review class assignments or what they have been taught because she cannot join an application/website called Kahoot. Kahoot is inaccessible and it has many visuals and buttons to drag and click. Not only is Naudia not able to access learning material or review information that has been taught, but she also loses the only opportunity to interact with her peers. This frustrates her and myself because as much as I ask the schools and teachers to use programs that are equally accessible to ALL it does not happen. Naudia is being denied access to the curriculum. In Kahoot, Naudia cannot answer questions because you need to see the color to know what choice of answer to pick. No one can read the choices to Naudia because the program moves too quickly. If the teachers think Kahoot provides a good learning experience for the students, then all of the students should be able to participate in it.

I ask that you support HB 1181/ SB 921, the accountability act for accessible K-12 education. The school systems must be accountable for the programs, applications, and websites they purchase and ensure they are fully accessible.

I'm asking you to think about my daughter's future. All children should have the opportunity to achieve and develop skills necessary for the future. I believe that in supporting this act you will impact the lives of countless children not just my child.