

March 14th, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of SB0926. As a parent of a child with a disability, you can only imagine that keeping your child safe, and making sure they have an opportunity to do well in school is a high priority. It is also extremely important to me that my sons school has fairness and equity in mind when educating him. I also greatly appreciate our educators. Shifting the burden of proof only means the school presents its case first and must show what they are providing to need the education support and instrumental needs of the students.

As the wife of an educator, it is also important to me that we do not create extra work for our special educators. However, this bill does in fact not create extra work. Educators all ready keep data and reports to satisfy requirements that exist today for IEPs (individual education plans). There are in fact other states where the burden of proof has been shifted to the schools, and there is not data to support opponents claims that passing this bill would create more work for educators. States that have enacted this have shown, over time, due process complaints decreased which create better outcomes for students with disabilities, and less burden for everyone.

Please consider passing this bill so we continue to see progress and improvements of serving our students with special needs.

Best,

Amy Dodson