

Maryland State Legislators,

I am writing in support of HB 469. Special needs students and their families are currently dealing with a system that provides some students with 16 years in school and others 15 years, based on when their birthdays fall. This system is inequitable and should be corrected. Please support and vote in favor of HB 469.

Students with special needs and their families deal with many challenges related to their cognitive and physical abilities. Access to the public education system should not be one of them. If a student has a birthday during the summer months, they may lose out on an important final year of access. This final year can be a critical time for planning to transition from school, to whatever comes next for these young adults. It is in their best interest and the best interest of our state to provide them with the time and resources available to their peers.

As the father of a student with special needs I cannot believe this problem is intentional. The problem is addressed and corrected by HB 469. Please give this bill your full support and your vote. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dermot Wynne