

For the Witness Sign up,

Good afternoon, everyone. I am in favor of Prince George's County Special Education Service Delivery, Transportation, and Accountability Act SB863. It is an honor for me to have my voice and testimony considered. I am the mother of four students who have attended or are currently attending the PGCPs education system. For the past four years, I have witnessed that the counselors and staff "dedicated" to facilitating the school experience for students with special needs do not always do their jobs correctly. I don't know if it's due to a lack of training, a lack of resources, discrimination, racism, or a combination of all of these. A student with diagnosed ADHD, who has all the paperwork provided by her doctor and whose prescribed medication the school is aware she is taking, has been systematically denied the benefits to which she is entitled based on her diagnosis. When she has gone to her counselors, who could grant her access to these benefits, they simply tell her, "You don't have enough ADHD for us to give you these benefits." As a result, she is now potentially going to lose her right to graduate from high school, with no one caring about the triple effort she makes every day to complete her studies. I also recognize that there isn't enough access to information for parents to find solutions that benefit everyone. I'm convinced that equal access to education will help us create a stronger country. Thank you for listening.

- Gloria Perea