

Friis, John

From: talbertm@optonline.net
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 8:49 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Testimony

Please listen carefully to the testimony presented in opposition to S. B. 1142 about the impediments to FAPE for students and the burden to their caregiving families:

Suspensions out of school are very detrimental to a child with special needs. My autistic son doesn't understand and just sees it as like a snow day - punishment like this for a student who would rather be by himself is actually experienced as a reward - in school where he would get the needed services to help him with the social aspects of his disability would be so much more appropriate. He regresses during suspension - isolation serves no positive function for an individual with an intellectual or social disability.

Burden of proof residing with parents is a near insurmountable problem. At the very time that home life is impacted by an inappropriate education our lack of access to evidence and the astronomical cost in time and treasure to bring in outside experts who as peers can counter the school experts is overwhelming. Please endeavor to level the playing field.

Please let my son complete the year in which he turns 21.

Linda Talbert
1 Carriage Rd
Cos Cob, CT 06807
203.302.1056

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Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry