

Friis, John

From: eva greenwald [evagreenwald@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 11:50 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Testimony

Dear Sir:

I am the President of WE BELONG! Inclusion in Fairfield County. We are a grassroots, non-profit organization of parents, teachers, administrators and service providers who are dedicated to the full inclusion of children with disabilities.

I have become aware of proposed regulation changes. We are opposed to out of school suspensions for children with disabilities. Our children need the appropriate behavioral supports and continued, uninterrupted access to general education. In addition, the burden of proof must continue to lie on the School District. Our children are guaranteed to have a FAPE, and parents do not possess the information, knowledge nor legal resources that school districts do. In addition, a child's education should not end abruptly on his/her 21st birthday. The child would miss out and the message we are sending these children (our children) is that their education is not really all that important -- they can simply be cut off on their birthday. That is not the intent of our educational system, nor the message we want to send our children, their teachers and their typical peers.

I look forward to hearing from you. My organization and I are available to provide additional information if you should so desire.

Sincerely,

Eva M. Greenwald, President
WE BELONG! Inclusion in Fairfield County