

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to object to the language in Proposed Bill #HB 5425. The language states that the purpose of the bill is "to establish that the burden of proof lies with the party requesting a special education hearing;" The current law states that the burden of proof is the responsibility of the school district to prove it has provided a "Free, Appropriate, Public Education" (FAPE) through the Individual Education Plan (IEP). The current law makes sense because the school districts are in control of the records, staff, and the program. The proposed change would be a huge burden on parents, like myself, who have children with disabilities in Connecticut. Changing the burden of proof would make it excessively costly and almost impossible for parents of students receiving special education services to have a fair hearing with any reasonable chance of prevailing.

Thank you,

Penny Inferrera
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