

Members of the Education Committee:

I believe it is important that Bill HB 5683 addresses the issue of the SRBI process delaying the evaluation of children suspected of having a disability as well as the identification of such children requiring special education. Hence, I am requesting that the current version of Bill HB 5683 be amended to return the language that would specify that the SRBI process not delay a comprehensive evaluation or eligibility determination of children with disabilities.

I was one of the first groups of students with disabilities to have been mainstreamed through public education and have benefited immensely as a result. With a severe hearing loss, I graduated from high school, continued on to receive a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling and have successfully worked in Higher Education/Student Affairs for 20 years. Therefore, I would like to see the opportunity for a quality education be passed on to future generations of children with disabilities, so they may be successful students and future self-sufficient and contributing citizens of our communities.

Sincerely,

James M. Ryan  
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