

Date: 11 March 2015

I support Senate Bill No. 1055 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS.

I am the parent of two children, one of whom has been designated as gifted and talented. We are incredibly fortunate to be in a school system that validates and supports him as such. However, before he “aged in” to the program, he was struggling with a mixture of boredom/laziness (schoolwork was too easy) and anxiety (anything that he didn’t accomplish perfectly was “wrong”). He is quiet and sensitive, and as a result teachers would often overlook him and then misunderstand when he became frustrated or upset. It is important for him to be with other children that have the same needs and abilities as he does, and to be challenged in a supportive way so that he will stretch his limits rather than stay in a safe zone. These factors improve his attitude towards school, as well as his resilience and his ability to adapt, learn, and create – the latter of which are especially important lifelong skills. I support this bill because it provides important acknowledgement and support of both the emotional and intellectual needs of gifted and talented students.

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