

Dear Representatives:

HB5552, "An Act Concerning Special Education" should be renamed "An Act Violating Parents' Due Process Rights". This Bill inserts yet another step in an already difficult process for parents. Under this Bill, a parent 'SHALL' first participate in an "adjudication" process.

The language of HB5552 can be traced back to the M.O.R.E. Commission on Special Ed. It's an 'insiders' addition. That Commission produced a 'DRAFT' report in January 2015. In addition to the 'Draft' report, a separate page was handed out entitled "Additional Working Group Member Suggested Recommendations Since the 1/22/15 Meeting"—the language of HG5552 is in there, Item #2.

The M.O.R.E. Commission on Special Ed had, for the first several months, NO PARENT REPRESENTATIVES. Twenty members and then, finally, one parent advocate. Could you imagine what the unions would do if the House or Senate legislators messed around with their Due Process rights without giving them an equal place at the table?

There is already a mediation process in place wherein the parties can attempt to 'mediate' their claims and positions. This Bill raises the stakes -- and the cost. And, this adds time to the process. Time is the enemy of a child who needs help.

Sincerely,

Sue Haynie
Norwalk

NorwalkSEEKS