

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to oppose **HB Bill #5552; An Act Concerning Special Education**. As parents of a 5 year-old child with special needs we have all-ready faced many pit-falls of public education, several of which were traumatic to our son and not in his best interest. Some of the following are examples:

- **Illegal restraint without consent of our son by his caseworker. There has been no recourse for her actions. This action had negatively affected our son both emotionally and scholastically for over a two month time period. Unfortunately, to our son's educational detriment, the woman is still our son's caseworker.**
- **A 14 page BIP by the school district's BCBA... yes, this is indeed ridiculous! There are many things on the BIP that are not necessary or should be on our son's IEP... however, the school district is using a BIP as a "catch-all."**
- **Denial of an IEE, as well as denial of access to the elementary school for our independent evaluator- even when we are paying for it out of pockets.**
- **Denial of parental observations of our child even though we followed the BOE policy perfectly to request one. Needless to say we found out there was a ghost policy for parents of special needs children. Apparently the BOE policy does not stand when your child falls under the "special needs" category.**
- **8 PPT's between the spring of 2015 to current date with another PPT pending for later this month to straighten our son's IEP and BIP from clerical errors, services, and education. (Unfairly protracts and delays access to appropriate interventions for the child with special needs).**
- **Undue burden to parents of special needs parents according to IDEA across the board and as aforementioned.**
- **Over \$5,000 (and going strong!) in legal fees for PPT's, e-mails and phone calls from November to current date. Unresolved due process issues pending.**

Fighting for FAPE under IDEA for our child has become a second full-time job for both my husband and I. This is a job we are not getting paid to perform, yet we do because we love our child and desire what is best for him educationally. As a parent and as a Public School Educator, I have sat at both sides of the table. My husband and I are not reaching out to you lightly. We are reaching out with deep concern for both our child with special needs and the children of others with special needs.

HB Bill #5552; An Act Concerning Special Education does the following to dis-service our special needs child:

- **creates a time consuming and costly barrier to the resolving due process issues**
- **unfairly protracts and delays access to appropriate interventions for the disabled child.**

- tips the scales towards school districts because "independent" arbitrator qualifications ensure a high likelihood that these roles will be filled by current or former employees from within the public education system.

Please take all of this and e-mails I know others have sent in regards to opposing this bill.

Sincerely,

Todd and Polly Vouglas