

TO: Education Committee  
RE: **HB #5552: An Act Concerning Special Education**

FROM: Taxpayer, Willow Buscemi  
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I'm writing in opposition to **HB #5552: An Act Concerning Special Education**.

My son was "outplaced" the second month of first grade and it took us eight months to find him the right school with an opening. The delays were additional because our school district failed to file the paperwork needed for an April opening instead of the July opening we ended up getting. During that time he received a few hours a week of homebound tutoring. You can imagine how this long long process with our school system effected Jack's education and our family.

Parents cannot experience even further delays added by HB #5552 when hurdles are endless already. My son has suffered greatly at the hands of our school system and he deserves an education without delay.

The reasons I oppose **HB Bill #5552; An Act Concerning Special Education** include the fact that this bill:

- 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 this parent's concerns seriously and don't approve HB #5552 today. This is gut wrenching and needs to be stopped.

Regards,  
Willow Buscemi, taxpayer, parent of two elementary-age children, homeowner and working mother