

Minnesota State House  
Early Childhood Committee  
May 4, 2020

Dear Mr. Chair and Members,

Many thanks for the opportunity to testify today in support of bill number HF-1785 by Rep. Richardson.

My name is Idil Abdull and I am an autism mom and advocate. I will not bore you with research data and facts because you all know what it says about kicking children out of school. They drop out of school later-on, and it is the pipeline to a whole host of undesirable consequences.

The fact that we are even having to a legislation to stop kicking babies who are not even in first grade from their educational environment should be embarrassing to all of us. These are children who are not even in kinder garden. They are 3-4 four-year-olds. Children are blank pages and their brains are sponges. What kind of information are we writing in their impressionable brain by suspending them? Imagine if you are a toddler who is having a tantrum and the adult teacher and the adult principal's idea is to kick you out. Imagine the painful and lifelong scar that leaves in a growing child's brain.

Children should feel wanted in school. They should feel nurtured by the principals. They should be protected by lawmakers and they should be cared for by their parents. All of us as adults need to do our part in ensuring every child learns to their best outcome and full potential.

Any adult teacher or principal who kicks a toddler from school is a coward and should not be allowed to teach.

I ask that this legislation passes this year and does not see any hiccups or delays again, and I thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Idil Abdull