

# COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

May 2, 2019

Tax Conference Committee  
15 Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

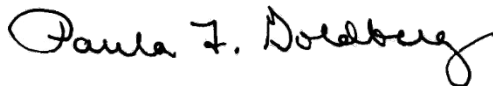
Members of the Tax Conference Committee,

As a statewide coalition of disability advocacy organizations, we wish to express our strong opposition to “Equity and Opportunity in Education Tax Credit” include in the Senate omnibus tax bill, Senate File 5. This provision provides tax credits for donations to foundations to pay for tuition at nonpublic schools.

Tax credits such as these divert public funds to private schools. Private schools can and do exclude students with disabilities. Although this tax credit has a goal to promote increased school options for families, many children with disabilities will never have any choice besides their local public schools. Furthermore, private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools, so there will be less accountability for how these funds are spent.

Again, we oppose the Equity and Opportunity Tax Credit and encourage you to focus on initiatives that help public schools provide a high-quality education to ALL students. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns, and thank you for your commitment to improved outcomes for students with disabilities. Please contact Sarah Clarke at [sclarke@hyldenlaw.com](mailto:sclarke@hyldenlaw.com) or 952-201-4654 for additional information on how this provision will adversely impact children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Paula Goldberg  
Executive Director, PACER Center

<b>Autism Society of Minnesota</b> ausm.org (651) 647-1083	<b>Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota</b> efmn.org (651) 287-2300	<b>Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance</b> braininjurymn.org (612) 378-2742	<b>PACER Center, Inc.</b> PACER.org (952) 838-9000	<b>Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of MN</b> pwsa-usa.org/MN (763) 242-9074	<b>Proof Alliance</b> proofalliance.org (651) 917-2370	<b>The Arc Minnesota</b> arcmn.org (952) 920-0855
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