

COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

February 17, 2021

Chair Ruth Richardson
Education Policy Committee
200 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

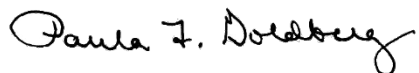
Chair Richardson and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

On behalf of the PACER Center and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, I am writing in support of H.F. 378, which provides funding for paid orientation and training for paraprofessionals. We strongly support this bill.

Paraprofessionals play an important role in the education of students with disabilities. In order for paraprofessionals to be most effective, they need to understand the disability of the children with whom they work and be knowledgeable of the accommodations that will help them be successful in the classroom. Providing funding to support paraprofessionals to receive paid orientation and professional development will enable them to better support the individual needs of students with disabilities. Without proper training, paraprofessionals may unintentionally escalate a student's behavior, resulting in additional challenges. Providing opportunities for paraprofessionals to receive training and meet with students' teachers will be beneficial to both students and professionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our position. We urge you to support H.F. 378. Please contact Sarah Clarke at sclarke@hyldenlaw.com or 952-201-4654 with any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Paula Goldberg
Executive Director, PACER Center
Member of the Coalition for Children with Disabilities

Coalition for Children with Disabilities

Arc Minnesota • Autism Society of Minnesota
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota • Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance • PACER Center
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Minnesota • Proof Alliance