



OPTIONS

Family & Behavior Services

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Dear Chair Youkim,

I am writing this letter in support of bill HF795, Extended school year for students in Residential Treatment and Day Treatment services. I have been providing services to children and families since the early 1980's. I have been a direct care counselor and Director of both Residential Treatment and Day Treatment Services. I am currently the Director of Options Family & Behavior Services Day Treatment Services that provides treatment to students that have mental health disorders and Substance Use Disorders.

Many of our Kids come to treatment behind in credit due to their mental health issues making it difficult for them to attend class, pay attention in class, attend school, complete assignments, or even turn in completed assignments. Dealing with the trauma in their lives, depression and or anxiety affects their ability to complete these everyday tasks that most youth do without thought. Many of our kids haven't attended regular school in months prior to admissions.

Bill HF795 will allow for them to catch up on credits will attending treatment. The bill will also enable them to begin to make progress in attending school and feeling successful in school no matter what time of year they start receiving services. The bill will enable them to maintain progress in school and make a smooth transition to mainstream education when they are ready to transition from treatment. Many times attending school, doing well in school and interacting with peers are the highest anxiety producing items for our kids.

Thank you for listening and for your attention to this important Bill!

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Hughes

Cecilia Hughes, MSW, LICSW, RPT-S