

COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

March 3, 2021

Education Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

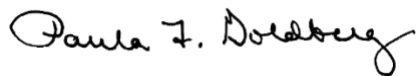
Chair Richardson and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

On behalf of the PACER Center and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, I am writing to share the Coalition's strong support for House File 951, Chair Richardson's bill to eliminate dismissals for students in kindergarten through third grade.

As you may know, students with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by suspensions, expulsions, and exclusions. By eliminating dismissals for children in kindergarten through third grade, we can keep our youngest learners in the classroom where they can learn important tools, strategies, and coping mechanisms to redirect interfering behavior. Using nonexclusionary disciplinary practices ensures that children can continue learning and are not subject to myriad of adverse impacts of suspension and expulsions.

We are grateful for Chair Richardson's leadership on this important issue. 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

The 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