

Dear Chair Richardson and Committee Members,

My name is Leilani Stoltzman and I live in, Zimmerman MN (district 31).

I am writing to you to request your support for House File 965/Senate File 1210 in support of recovery education for students who have disabilities.

During distance learning it felt like special education was an after thought. There was nothing properly in place to meet IEP in reasonable ways.

Distance learning was a disaster for my child. Special education services was a huge challenge for the school, our family and my student during distance learning time. Needs were not properly met.

To be perfectly honest I find the complaint process full of so much red tape that it becomes more exhausting than it's worth.

I honestly I don't know what we would need to make up for what was lost, but distance learning set my child back academically, emotionally, and psychologically. His already fragile mental health suffered more than I can express.

One thing that would benefit special education overall is better training for ALL staff working with special needs children. Including mainstream teachers, paras, school social workers, everyone. There is not enough focus on continuing education for those working with our children.

Please support House File 965/Senate File 1210, and thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,  
Leilani Stoltzman  
District 31