

# COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

March 28, 2023

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

Chair Youakim and Members of the Education Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, we are writing to express support for provisions in House File 2497, Representative Youkim's Omnibus Education Finance bill. We thank the chair for the focus on funding for special education, support staff, mental health, and training on non-exclusionary principles and policies. We support the following provisions in the Omnibus Finance Bill that provide:

- School board adoption of malicious and sadistic conduct policy (Article 2, Section 22)
- Non-exclusionary discipline language, prohibition of dismissals for K-3, discipline complaint procedure, readmission supports, supports for students who have been bullied, funding for training on non-exclusionary discipline (Article 2, Section 26-31, 33, 36-38, Article 2, Section 61)
- Prohibition of withholding recess as form of punishment (Article 2, Section 39)
- Restrictive Procedures modifications (Article 2, Section 34-3)
- Paraprofessional training and paid time to review IEPs (Article 2, Section 40, 55, 61)
- The Read Act (Article 3)
- Special Education Teacher Pipeline Program (Article 5, Section 61)
- Funding for Student Support Personnel Aid (Article 5, Section 63)
- Modifying the age to receive special education services to 22 (Article 7, Section 1, 6, 8)
- On going funding of 47.8% of the special education cross subsidy (Article 7, Section 15)
- Reimbursement for Special Education school social work services (Article 7, Section 18)

We are concerned about the disproportionality of BIPOC students in segregated settings and the number of students coming out of EIDBI centers and going directly into Federal Setting IV without consideration of less restrictive options. Instead of including the Special Education Separate Sites and Programs Aid (Article 7, Section 17), we feel a better approach would be to tie funding to student need rather than federal setting. We also are concerned about the inclusion of pupil withdrawals in a student's educational record, as typically the main advantage of engaging in a pupil withdrawal agreement is not having an expulsion on a student's record (Article 2, Section 25, 32).

## **Coalition for Children with Disabilities**

Autism Society of Minnesota • The Arc Minnesota • Decoding Dyslexia Minnesota  
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota • Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center  
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance • Minnesota Council on Disability  
Multicultural Autism Action Network • PACER Center  
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Minnesota • Proof Alliance