

Colie Colburn

From: NICHOLAS A ROLFES <NICHROLFES@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Cc: Dave Pinto
Subject: Re: Feb 23 hearing of HF612

Re: HF612, hearing on February 23, 2023 in the Children and Families Finance Committee

Committee Administrator Colburn,

I have emailed Rep Daniels who is author of this bill; I have contacted my representatives (Dave Pinto and Erin Murphy). I would understand that you are the one who would do the work on the packet regarding this bill. I would like to have my concern included with that packet information:

I object to the language in the bill as it is presently written, specifically language defining neglect as "failure to teach a deaf child sign language, thus depriving the child of the ability to communicate with others." Pg2.17/line 9.

I have concern that this bill is targeting one specific population in adding language for deaf children and cites "failure to teach a deaf child sign language " as NEGLECT. I have two deaf family members, two separate generations.one who uses American Sign Language (ASL) and the written word, and another who is verbal. The younger member received a cochlear implant as an infant and communicates very well, working hard to be verbal via a program teaching her to be successful in the hearing world. She is a minor, and does not know sign language; she is deaf. But she does know how to communicate verbally, as the majority population! It is a small percent of the population who communicates with sign language. This verbal, deaf child will be able to mainstream. I could not support that the parents were guilty of NEGLECT with the child's teaching.

The older family member never had the opportunity for a cochlear implant. But had that opportunity been available to him as a child, his life might have been different. While having the option of ASL is wonderful, requiring it as the communication option is not recognizing the progress made in technology for the hearing impaired....I find this view regressive.

I would support giving the deaf child the appropriate tools to communicate...which may differ from child to child.

Thank you for your service.

Peggy Rolfes
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