

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Education Policy Committee  
Chair – Rep. Richardson  
March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*My son who has nonverbal autism was suspended by teacher Kelly Morris and principal Jaysen Anderson on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:18pm in 2018. The teacher neglected to give him his communication device, disrupted his routine then called the principal and security on my kid.*

*I will never forget that day.*



*I never took him back. My son now goes to a charter school which has been simply wonderful. They understand he has a disability and does not comprehend suspension nor cause/affect.*

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**Re: HF 874**

Madam chair and members, many thanks for the opportunity to give my opinion in this bill. I appreciate your time.

Members of both parties have often said; Minnesota needs to produce the “best workforce”. To get that, students must receive quality education. In other words, if our current law says “adequate education” then our children will become adequate workforce which we all know is mediocre workforce.

I am constantly shocked at the level of resistance for anything good by Education Minnesota and unions. I am also appalled by those that say – this will open the door for education lawsuits. So, because adults who chose this profession and have created our current horrible education gap, are afraid that a court will hold them accountable? Therefore, let us just keep the status quo which has not worked and failed our kids.

Madam chair and members, would you go to a medical doctor whose logo is we provide adequate care? Would I take my son to an autism therapist that says – I provide adequate therapy? Would you even buy shoes from store that says – we sell adequate shoes?

The simple answer is heck no. But we are ok with our children getting adequate education? You know the unions were started so that big corporations would not take advantage of their workers, but it was never intended to short-change the customers. Minnesota's unions have gone to unacceptable level of short-changing our children who are the customers.

All I can say now is as a woman and a minority – I am ashamed so many people who look like me support these heartbreaking and hurtful policies that have created the education gap we are in now. If we cannot stand up for our kids against any unions or lobbyists, then what kind of human beings does that make us?

Think about it and please support the kids, not the adults.

Thanks again for your time.

Idil – Somali Autism Mom