

# COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

March 28, 2023

Education Finance Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
95 University Ave, W.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Kunesh 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 Senate File 2684, Senator Kunesh's Omnibus Education Finance bill. We thank the chair for the focus on funding for special education, support staff, and mental health. We support the following provisions in the Omnibus Finance Bill:

- The Read Act (Article 3)
- Funding for Student Support Personnel Aid (Article 4, Section 17)
- Paraprofessional training and paid time to review IEPs (Article 5, Section 8)
- Modifying the age to receive special education services to 22 (Article 5, Section 7)
- Funding the special education ongoing at 60% of the cross subsidy (Article 5, Section 9)
- Reimbursement for Special Education school social work services (Article 5, Section 11)

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 5, Section 10), we feel a better approach would be to tie funding to student need rather than federal setting. We also suggest funding available for schools for nonexclusionary discipline practices.

## **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