

February 12, 2025

SUBJECT: SF0507

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Education Policy Committee Members,

My name is Amanda Temple and I am a parent of a child with a disability. I am writing to you in support of SF 0507, which addresses the accessibility of the IEP process.

As a parent with a visual disability, it is often hard to get information in accessible formats to participate. I also know of parents who have barriers to participating in IEP services based on limited translation and interpretation options.

IEP accessibility includes parents with disabilities, including interpretation and captioning for parents who are deaf and hard of hearing.

I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Amanda Temple
Minneapolis, MN

February 12, 2025

SUBJECT: SF0507 - IEP Accessibility

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Committee Members,

I am a parent of a child with a disability who has a disability themselves and I am writing to ask for your support of SF0507 which addresses the inaccessibility of the IEP process. We prefer to remain anonymous due to fear of retaliation and due to biases in our school district.

We wish administration and educators listened more and didn't use ableist language or practices. We wish we could be welcomed as part of the team and heard. We often feel gaslit, talked over, and ignored about our child's basic medical support needs - needs which if not followed can result in our child's death.

Ideally we'd love for our child to feel welcomed, included, to make lifelong friends and to feel positively challenged and grow academically. Instead we're told their grades are ok so there's no IEP support needs.

But we are at the lowest point - we just want our child to come home from school alive.

This bill is important to use because we hope it means more families with disabilities and non US born families will feel valued and heard - and children will be safe and welcomed at school.

Our family is fearful to disclose our disability due to biases and stigmas. We want to feel welcomed as part of the IEP team. We would love access to IEP evaluations and reports in writing in native language before the meeting. We also would like time during meetings and after to process questions or recommendations as due to our disabilities making a quick decision is nearly impossible.

Please support SF0507 to improve the accessibility of the IEP process.

Sincerely,

Anonymous parent in zip code 55416

February 13, 2025

SUBJECT: SF0507

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Committee Members,

My name is Hannah Campbell Gustafson and I am a parent of a child with a disability. I am writing to ask for your support of SF0507.

My family speaks English. My spouse and I are both highly educated. And yet, the IEP process has felt confusing to us. I can't imagine how much more complicated it might be for someone whose primary language isn't English, or who has a disability themselves.

This bill is important to me because everyone should have supported access to the IEP process.

I ask for your support of SF0507.

Sincerely,

Hannah Campbell Gustafson
Minneapolis, MN 55407

February 13, 2025

SUBJECT: SF0507

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Education Policy Committee Members,

My name is Milena Bates and I am a person with a disability and also a parent. I am writing to ask for your support of SF0507 regarding the accessibility of the IEP process.

I went through it the first few years of IEPs not realizing what I didn't understand about it. After I learned I have spent the last 6 years explaining to others. Some of the issues I didn't even understand were accessibility issues until recently.

The current situation puts some of the parents at an unfair disadvantage and it's bound to reflect on how well the children's needs can be met.

A lot of parents of children with disabilities have undiagnosed disabilities and access should ideally not depend on disclosure of disability by the parent.

I ask for your support of SF0507.

Sincerely,

Milena Bates
Bloomington MN 55438

February 14, 2025

SUBJECT: SF0507

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Education Policy Committee Members,

My name is Allison Mehlhorn and I am a parent of a child with a disability. I am writing to ask for your support of SF0507 regarding the accessibility of the IEP process.

I had no knowledge of the IEP process & had to learn as I went. I had to fight for my son to get the access he needed to acquire language. I don't want other families to struggle.

This bill is important to me in order to ensure every child has access to become the best version of themselves.

It shouldn't be this hard for parents to be part of the process.

Sincerely,

Allison, Mehlhorn
Washington County, MN