

**Education Policy Committee**

Minnesota Senate

Minnesota Senate Bldg.

95 University Avenue W., Saint Paul, MN 55155

**TO:** Chair Cwodzinski

**CC:** Vice Chair Maye Quade; Lead Coleman; Members of the Education Policy Committee

**Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Senate's Education Policy Committee,**

The Coalition for Children with Disabilities supports legislation that improves parents' access to the IEP process. We work with parents who struggle to participate due to language barriers and their own disability related needs. The lack of a clear process for how parents can request reasonable accommodations leads to communication and relationship challenges for parents and IEP school staff.

Communication challenges can lead to lengthy delays in coming to agreement about the child's IEP services. While a student waits for services to begin or changes to be made, they may experience a lack of academic progress or increased behaviors due to unmet needs. This can also lead to strained relationships, sometimes resulting in teams needing to access dispute resolution options to work through multiple concerns that could have been avoided.

A clear process for families to request necessary accommodations will foster better relationships with school staff and allow parents to participate in the process advocating for their child. This will improve the process for schools and parents alike so they can work as a team to ensure special education services provide students with disabilities access to their Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

Sincerely,

**The Coalition for Children with Disabilities**

**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