



February 14, 2025

Senate Education Policy Committee

Subject: SF 0507 - IEP Accessibility

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Committee members,

The Multicultural Autism Action Network is a non-profit organization that serves children with disabilities and their families in multicultural communities. We are writing to ask for your strong support of SF0507 which improves the accessibility of the IEP process for parents who have a disability themselves or parents who speak a language other than English at home.

Many of you who serve on the education committee have experiences as educators, school board members, or parents, and know that the IEP process is cumbersome, opaque, and complex for all parties involved. It is especially difficult to navigate for parents who speak a language other than English or parents who have a disability themselves.

In our work as advocates we know that one of core principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is the *right of parents to participate in educational decision making* regarding their child with a disability. Yet every day we hear from families about what happens when families do not have equal access to the IEP process:

- Families whose children have been moved to more restrictive settings without their consent or understanding of what that meant.
Families who had their IEPs revoked altogether without their consent.
- Families who did not understand that their children were placed in remedial classes.
- Families who requested disability accommodations only to have those requests denied and without any recourse.

We strongly believe that when schools and parents collaborate, students win. This bill brings common sense provisions to ensure collaboration between IEP teams and parents. We therefore respectfully ask for your strong support of SF0507.

Sincerely,

Fatima Molas
Delia Samuel
Rufo Jiru
Maren Christenson Hofer