



SF 507

Written Testimony

Erin Sandsmark

Solutions Not Suspensions Coalition

Dear Education Policy Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Erin Sandsmark, and I am the Coalition Programs Manager for Solutions Not Suspensions Coalition. Solutions Not Suspensions is a coalition of families, students, and organizations that are dedicated to end discriminatory discipline in our schools. We believe in parent voice, so I am writing to you today to share our support for SF 507.

As a coalition, SNS believes in uplifting the rights of students and parents in our schools, and we believe that SF 507 takes an important step in accommodating the needs of our parents in the community that may have disabilities, and come from diverse backgrounds.

The process of creating an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for a child can cause many barriers. Often, the process has left parents with disabilities, and parents who do not speak English as a primary language without the resources necessary to understand and advocate for their child in the way they deserve. It is vital that any parent with a child who has an IEP, understands their child's education plan fully.

The accommodations listed in SF 507 are clear, and common sense. We need the parents in our community to have all the resources necessary to make the best decisions for their children. We have needed this type of support for families for a long time, and we are excited to see the steps that this bill would take to support our community.

We strongly believe in SF 507, and I encourage the committee members to pass this bill through. All of our families in Minnesota deserve a seat at the table.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erin Sandsmark

Solutions Not Suspensions

Coalition Programs Manager