



March 25, 2025

Senate Education Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Comments on Education Omnibus Bill - SF 1740

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Education Policy Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Senate education omnibus bill, SF1740. The Multicultural Autism Action Network would like to focus on the special education sections in Article 5:

Article 5 Sections 1 and 2 - Language Access Plan

The Language Access Plan is a good step, but we are concerned that it does not go far enough to solve the problem of inequitable access to the IEP process. Specifically,

- It requires school districts to have a plan, but it does not require **a process** for following reasonable accommodations. When parents have run into trouble and tried to file complaints in the past, they were asked "Did you follow the process?" If we don't create a process then we aren't actually solving the access problems experienced by families of children with disabilities.
- A plan doesn't have any enforcement mechanism. By including a specific process in the IEP statutes, the enforcement mechanism becomes the dispute resolution processes available through MDE.
- When the access plan is not followed, families and students are the ones harmed, never the school.

Article 5 Section 3 and 4 - Prior Written Notice

We appreciate the codification of the prior written notice sections of IDEA into Minnesota state law.

Article 5 Section 5 - State Complaint Process

We appreciate the codification of the federal complaint process under IDEA into Minnesota state law.

Article 5 Section 6 - Developmental Delay Working Group

We reiterate our statement that we have no objection to the creation of a working group, but we would like to ensure that there is representation from communities of color as part of that group. In our prior testimony we referred to the long and problematic history of the use of disability labels as a tool for racial segregation. We recommend the work of this group be informed by that history.

Other

We are pleased to see that no changes to suspensions, seclusions, or recess are included in the Senate omnibus bill as there is no evidence that suspensions, seclusions, or withholding recess result in improved student behavior. We are grateful for the Senate's leadership, and hope that you will hold the line during conference committee negotiations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Multicultural Autism Action Network

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