



March 26, 2025

Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SF942 and the A3 amendment, in particular.

LSAP and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. MDLC provides free legal services to children and adults with disabilities. LSAP is the advocacy arm of Legal Aid and has provided legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of Minnesotans with low incomes since 1977.

Legal Aid is committed to ensuring all Minnesota children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education and high-quality opportunities for growth. As such, Legal Aid works to ensure that those policies and processes that protect the rights of children with disabilities are meaningful and effective.

We are grateful for the thoughtful work happening around attendance and truancy this session. We want to thank Senator Kunesh for acknowledging some of the attendance challenges experienced by students with disabilities who are sometimes co-navigating disability and illness.

Legal Aid continues to work with and represent children with disabilities who have been dropped from enrollment or who have been inappropriately referred to county services where the student's disability explains and excuses the student's absences. We are hopeful that better coordination with a student's IEP team can prevent unnecessary referrals to the county and also prevent unenrollment. This amendment language complements the language moving in the house that begins to focus on unexcused, consecutive absences.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica L. Webster
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project