

BILL NUMBER SF2255

Dear Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan,

My name is Brittany Alavi and I am raising my children in Woodbury, Minnesota. I have a 5 year old daughter named Fallon who has Autism and has had an IEP since age 3. Fallon has also been diagnosed with Selective Mutism, an anxiety disorder which prevents her from being able to use her voice in stressful situations.

While I recognize the state's budget challenges, I am deeply concerned about the proposed reductions to public charter school funding, especially those affecting Special Education. Fallon is entering Kindergarten and our boundary school in South Washington County is over capacity. The extremely crowded common spaces and classrooms are likely to cause Fallon to lose the ability to use her voice during her school day due to her anxiety disorder. We have opted to send Fallon to a charter school in our city, Woodbury Leadership Academy primarily for the smaller class sizes.

Reductions in Special Education funding and operating revenue for students like Fallon at charter schools would mean larger class sizes, diminished resources, and limited access to the therapies that ensure their success. The impact on their education would be profound and heartbreaking. Losing funding could mean cutting essential intervention programs, reducing paraprofessional support, and leaving our most vulnerable students without the assistance they need to reach their full potential.

As you craft the Education Finance Omnibus bill, I urge you to protect and preserve the critical state funding that charter school students depend on. Now, more than ever, they need your support to ensure their education remains equitable and effective. Please stand with us in prioritizing all Minnesota students, regardless of the type of public school they attend. Please help Fallon keep the ability to use her voice at a charter school that can fit her needs.

Respectfully,

Brittany Alavi
612-239-2602