Submitter: Tara L

On Behalf Of: RL

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

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Without the options for families to select a school that is right for their children, a lot of kids are left with very little options depending on the area they live in. A lot of schools are not equipped with proper resources to help each individual child thrive.

My child has some disabilities and they were in a school that was not equipped to help my child learn let alone thrive. I spent 1 hour in the classroom and watched the teacher put a worksheet in front of my 2nd grader and left the child to "figure it out" on their own without giving the child instructions, since the child wasn't caught up with the rest of the class. The teacher and principal refused to allow a private tutor (at my expense) in the classroom to help my child since the child didn't qualify for an aide. My child needed more 1:1 to understand the assignments. Since my child was not disruptive, they didn't draw attention to themselves which in turn the child was consistently ignored.

When we decided to enroll my child into a charter school that allowed more flexibility and customization of the curriculum, the district denied us due to they were anticipating they would met the 3% cap in the following year. The district hadn't even met the current school year 3% cap but we were denied because they assumed they would meet the cap in the following school year.

If the district is unable to provide the proper education or even tools to help a child thrive, then the families should have the opportunity to chose which public school that will help their children. It's unfair to a child who needs different tools to thrive then what their current school is able to provide.

Removing the 3% cap will allow more families to find the school that fits their childrens' needs instead of these kids suffering in school that is not equipped for their needs. More and more families are realizing they do have the option to apply elsewhere without having to physically move but are consistently being denied due to the 3% cap. Most families can't afford to move and these families should not be forced to the extremely limited options they have within their school district.

I support the removal of the cap.

Thank you.