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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Because of the cap on special education funding, students with IEP's and disabilities have been getting the bare minimum for years. Since I've started high school, I've really seen this in action. My sophomore year, I was one of 14 kids in an IEP class that was manned by one teacher. Because this class was understaffed, I didn't get that extra academic support I needed, nor did I learn much academically. However what I did learn, is that it is nearly impossible for one teacher to provide specialized one-on-one help to that many students. It is nearly impossible for one teacher to give that many students the opportunity to turn their academic struggles into skills that they will no doubt use throughout their life. And the kicker? The thing that really hits me in the heart and nags at my mind, is that it doesn't have to be this way. Kids with disabilities don't have to be crammed into one tiny hallway of a three story high school. Individualized Education Plans don't have to be paid no attention to. There is room for change. There is room for improvement.