

Submitter: Michael Stasack
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: SB819

I am a retired teacher who wholeheartedly supports students, teachers, and parents in the joint effort to educate the children of our state. SB 819 is an extreme response to fix some problems and adhere strictly to the letter of certain poorly written sets of laws and guidelines around special education which ignore the students' and parents' roles in education. One of the reasons I retired on time rather than continue teaching was because of the inadequate support for teachers and the abusive application of poorly and inappropriately written IEP and 504 plans which parents can, and do, use to force teachers and schools to comply with IEP/504 plans that may not work. Teachers have been disciplined for not adhering to an out of date plan that was poorly written in the first place, is inappropriate for their subject area, that they never signed off on, or which they were never provided. Now SB 819 goes even further by giving parents unilateral rights to override IEP team placement determinations as defined under federal law, but then making the school district pay for compensatory education if the student doesn't graduate on time. Inappropriate use and application of these plans hurts the child with the plan and every other student in the classroom while destroying staff morale. Is it any wonder there is a teacher shortage?