

May 10, 2023

To: Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee

From: Ross Ryan

RE: SB 819A with the -A13 Amendments

Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Ross Ryan. I am a self-advocate who used special education services while I was attending school. It is important for students with disabilities to attend school all day like every other student. Going to school is our right. Being supported in school is our right. Going to school helps us learn, be educated and get a job. When we have a job, we show everyone that people with disabilities can do the work and be successful.

It is important for students with disabilities to be included in the school community so we are connected to our peers without disabilities. When we are fully included at school, we interact with all students and staff. Then we can work together with our different gifts and different ways to do things.

When people with disabilities are included in school, our schools are stronger. That changes the broader community because it sets the expectation that communities are better when all people are involved. When people with disabilities are part of the community, then everyone can work together in our own ways to make things better for everyone.

Please pass SB 819A with the -A13 amendments. Thank you.