

Submitter: Lisa Ledson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB4078

To Chair Neron, Co-chairs Wright and Hudson, and Esteemed Committee Members,

I write to you today in strong support of the proposed amendments to House Bill 4078, as outlined in document HB 4078-2, dated February 9, 2024. These amendments signify a pivotal step in enhancing our state's educational infrastructure, ensuring that all students, from kindergarten through grade 12, receive the support and resources needed to thrive in our public schools.

As proposed, the introduction of a statewide student information system addresses critical gaps in our current educational framework. It promises to streamline the transfer of student records, simplify data submission processes for schools, and ensure interoperability with electronic school health records. This initiative aims to reduce administrative burdens and significantly improve the accessibility and quality of educational and health data, thereby enhancing student care and support.

**Ease of Transfer for Student Education Records:** Seamlessly transferring student records across districts and schools is paramount in ensuring that students, regardless of their mobility or circumstances, receive consistent and uninterrupted education. This is especially crucial for students in vulnerable situations or those requiring special education services, where continuity of care and instruction is vital.

**Streamlining Data Submission:** By easing the submission process of data to the Department of Education, schools can redirect their focus and resources towards educational quality and student support rather than administrative tasks. This efficiency benefits the schools and enhances the Department's capacity to monitor progress, identify needs, and allocate resources more effectively.

**Interoperability with Health Records:** Integrating electronic school health records is a forward-thinking approach acknowledging the inseparable link between health and education. This interoperability ensures educators have a holistic understanding of their students' needs, facilitating more tailored and practical support.

The comprehensive study mandated by this bill, examining existing systems, implementation timelines, and potential costs, alongside exploring alternatives, ensures that our approach to this statewide system is informed and pragmatic. Including individualized education programs and health data in the system underscores our commitment to every student's success and well-being.

Furthermore, for students like my daughter, Hannah, a sixth grader with disabilities, this bill represents a beacon of hope. For children on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 plans, the proposed system offers a streamlined approach to managing their unique educational and health needs, ensuring they receive the specific support and accommodations necessary for success. This system safeguards their academic journey and honors their right to a tailored and inclusive education.

Moreover, establishing the Task Force on a Statewide Student Information System, drawing from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, ensures that diverse perspectives and expertise guide this initiative. This collaborative approach guarantees that the resulting system is not only technologically robust but also aligned with the real-world needs of our students, educators, and administrators.

In conclusion, the amendments proposed in HB 4078-2 represent an essential step in modernizing our educational infrastructure, making it more inclusive, efficient, and responsive to the needs of all students and educators in our state. I urge you to support these amendments, recognizing their potential to profoundly impact the educational landscape by ensuring every child, especially those with unique educational needs like Hannah, has the support they need to succeed.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of these critical amendments.

Sincerely,

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