

Submitter: Korey Rice

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

As a Speech Language Pathologist working in a public school district, I want to counter one of the arguments against this legislation. School systems, although struggling for funding in most areas of the state, are extremely unlikely to attempt to qualify students for special education simply as a way to raise revenue. The amount of time and resources that go into the process of qualifying a student and managing and executing their IEP leaves little financial benefit for the district after it pays for personnel and overhead. Even if there were a small benefit remaining, I cannot imagine a group of people dedicated to the growth and success of children intentionally using those children for the act of deception required to circumvent the very clear laws and regulations that guide the special education eligibility process. For my simplest cases – and speech and language IEPs are some of the simplest out there – determining eligibility requires 36 pages of documentation detailing every step of an assessment process that is required to include standardized, norm-referenced measures. To falsely find a student eligible, not only would a licensed professional have to falsify results, but would also have to convince the child's teacher, parent, and anyone else involved in the child's case to join in the scam. Is it possible that such deception could occur? It's not impossible that it may happen once or twice across the state, but the idea that it could happen on a systematic or widespread level is unfathomable.