

Submitter: Ian Baines

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

As a person with a severe Traumatic Brain Injury, and currently involved in education; as a teacher and administrator for over twenty years, I support HB2953. My success in school (in college when experiencing the Injury) is directly associated to the educational inclusivity I received, when returning to school . My motivation to achieve thinking, behaving and interacting with others at level found in traditional education, conditioned me for the years ahead. In school, I reconnected with friends and befriended new. In my work and life environments, I am comfortable being a part of traditional communities, and this was accomplished because of my exposure (inclusion) to college classes, social circles, and life's traditional hurdles that all traditional populations face. If it wasn't for the universal support of collaboration and teamwork, found from the inclusive environments I enrolled back into, I would have been more challenged and less motivated to continue to pursue further education and build new bridges to achieve life goals.

What is challenging, is getting people living a 'traditional' life, to understand and live in the world where hurdles present on a daily basis because of a disability are manifested due to societal limitations of giving ALL individuals an opportunity to succeed.

Remove the limitation of separation  
by endorsing Special Education  
funding, and encourage inclusivity;  
HB2953.

Ian Baines