

Submitter: Amanda Wallace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I work in ECSE and k-12 special education and funding to keep our services equitable, innovative, and efficient is crucial. Without the needed funding for preschool for next year, our students with disabilities will not be able to continue getting the services they need to get ahead. Our prek students who currently get 2x a week of special education services will not be able to get the needed 3x a week services next year without funding. Our prek special education services are far below and offer much less already compared to other states, and research has consistently shown the importance of early intervention. Additional funding at prek and all levels of education is crucial to support our learners and improve graduation and employment rates.