

COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

April 6, 2021

Education Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate
1100 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Chamberlain and Members of the Education Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the PACER Center and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, I am writing to share our priorities in the delete-everything amendment to Senate File 960.

We are grateful for the inclusion of the following provisions:

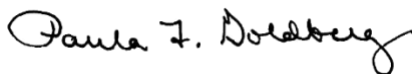
- Elimination of kindergarten to grade 3 dismissals
- LETRS teacher training funding
- Ensuring medically complex students can have access to a nurse while attending school
- Recovery education efforts to help children with disabilities catch up from pandemic-related learning loss
- Funding for creation of guidelines around clinical nursing in schools
- Special education funding

We are concerned about the following provisions:

- Education savings accounts as this may disadvantage children with disabilities given the less stringent special education standards for non-public schools
- Codifying the automatic removal of students in statute, which is inconsistent with the intent of Pupil Fair Dismissal Act and potentially in violation of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Thank you for the opportunity to share our priorities in delete-everything amendment to Senate File 960. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure all students have access to a high quality education. Please contact Sarah Clarke at sclarke@hyldenlaw.com or 952-201-4654 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Paula Goldberg
Executive Director, PACER Center and Member of the Coalition for Children with Disabilities

Coalition for Children with Disabilities

The Arc Minnesota • Autism Society of Minnesota
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota • Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance • PACER Center
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Minnesota • Proof Alliance