

COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

May 6, 2020

Education Policy Committee
House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Youakim and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

On behalf of the PACER Center and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, I am writing in support of the following provisions in House File 163:

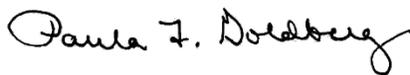
Standalone Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs), with prior written notice to parents and right to request comprehensive evaluation: We support allowing functional behavioral assessments to be conducted as standalone evaluations, as long as parents provide consent and have the opportunity to request a full evaluation when they believe it to be necessary. The amended language will create new flexibility around FBAs while ensuring that parents, as equal members of the IEP team, are informed of their rights in the evaluation process.

Reporting of Pupil Withdrawal Agreements: We support the requirement that school districts report the number of pupil withdrawal agreements to the state. These types of agreements are often made as alternatives to expulsion, and collecting this data is important to improve understanding of how this form of exclusionary discipline practices is used.

Culturally Responsive Practices: We support the bill's provisions to encourage the development of curriculum that is culturally relevant and responsive and learning environments that are inclusive and respectful of diverse students and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our positions on HF 163. Please contact Sarah Clarke at sclarke@hyldenlaw.com or 952-201-4654 with any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,



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

Coalition for Children with Disabilities

The Arc Minnesota • Autism Society of Minnesota • Down Syndrome Association 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