

Minnesota House of Representatives
Education Policy Committee
Chair – Richardson
March 10, 2021

My son who has nonverbal autism was suspended by teacher Kelly Morris and principal Jaysen Anderson on Thursday, May 3rd, 5:18pm in 2018. The teacher neglected to give him his communication device, disrupted his routine then called the principal and security on my kid.

I will never forget that day.



I never took him back. My son now goes to a charter school which has been simply wonderful. They understand he has a disability and does not comprehend suspension nor cause/affect.

Re: House Education Omnibus – let us aim higher and bigger this year.

Madam Chair and Members,

Thanks again for the opportunity to speak for my son and so many other children like him. We are nearing the end and I am cautiously optimistic this legislative session. I am hoping the final education omnibus bill will have the following critical items:

1. Non-exclusionary methods before kicking a child from his/her educational environment.
2. Banning suspending young students up to 3rd grade
3. Providing parents, the ability to complain and appeal if their child is suspended wrongly and unjustly with a policy that has some teeth behind it.
4. Keeping the current tiered teacher licensure system to ensure increasing teachers of color.

5. Adopting and allocating necessary funding in increasing (for real this time) teachers of color

If majority of above make it to the final education bill, I think will party like it is 1999. If you are too young to remember this, it was heck of a year.

Again, thanks for your time and considering these important provisions that will ensure our children learn.