

Dear (Representative/Senator, add their name),

My name is (your name). Thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I live in your district at (your address).

I am passionate about advocating for students with disabilities because I know firsthand some of the challenges they face in our schools. I have a child, (child's name, age and grade) with a disability that has benefited from special education. Special education has helped (child's name) access their education by (insert personal experience). Without special education they would not have the same opportunities as their peers who do not have a disability.

Unfortunately, many students in the state of Minnesota do not have adequate access to inclusive general education spaces or mental health and behavior supports. Due to a lack of funding and other resources, these unmet needs may result in truancy or exclusion. Additionally, many parents face barriers to participating as full members of their child's IEP team, such as understanding how to navigate the process and accessing dispute resolution options. School staff also lack training on de-escalation strategies and positive behavior interventions that help students feel safe and supported so they can focus on learning and staying in the classroom.

It is important that we work together to improve our children's access to inclusive programs that build the skills they need to achieve their goals and find greater independence. I am asking you to support bills that address Increasing Student Inclusion, Attendance; and Reduction of Exclusionary Practices, Increasing Parental Access and Empowerment in the Education Process, and Supporting Educators to Meet the Needs of All Students.

Thank you for your time and support!

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Contact Info (email and/or phone):