

Dear Chairwoman Gayle Manning,

I wanted to ask for your support of Bill HB 440, the bill that will allow continued remote services for students who are utilizing the Autism and John Peterson scholarships as homeschoolers.

My son Moses is on the spectrum and has qualified for the Autism Scholarship. Because of social anxiety, he does significantly better on tutoring that happens over Zoom. It helps him to focus and allows him to learn in his familiar home environment.

This year he has been able to work on reading goals with Jennifer Rigney over Zoom twice a week. He has made significant progress with Jennifer's expert help; more progress than he had made in several years with tutors with whom we attempted in-person meetings. He is less distracted over Zoom, and is able to work with Jennifer using specific web-based tools that I honestly think are superior to the paper ones he used before. He also seems to be more willing to ask for help when he works virtually with a tutor—he is less distracted by the social component that happens when a meeting is in-person.

Moses definitely needs to continue with Jennifer, and we would so like it to be in the way that has worked this year. Next year we hope to also have a tutor help him with some math goals over Zoom. He has done so well with reading, we would like to continue his progress in all areas.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our testimony.

Best,

Emily Hartman