

**HB 33 Interested Party Testimony**  
**Kinzley Coney**  
**House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education**  
**Chair Tracy Richardson**  
**March 16, 2023**

Chair Richardson and members of the Education Subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to speak today. My Mom has talked about why the Jon Peterson Scholarship is important to our family. I want to tell you about how Springer School has helped me.

My name is Kinzley Coney and I have been attending Springer School and Center for 3 years. Today I am going to be sharing my experience with Springer and how it has helped me. I used to go to a public school from kindergarten to 4th grade and it was not helping me get the education I needed. There were almost 30 kids in a class and only a couple of classrooms had assistant teachers. I struggled in that school because the work that was being handed to us was entirely too hard. Math has always been my hardest subject, and they were teaching me two grade levels above what I could understand. It was also harder for me because I struggled with ADHD. At my old school during class times it was extremely hard to focus because of how much was running through my head and I couldn't stay on task. My teachers stood in front of the room and talked about math instead of showing me how to do the problems. Going to school felt like being in the middle of the desert, because I wasn't getting any water, and I wasn't able to grow my mind. I was lonely and tired because no one else in my classes knew what I was going through, and how tough it was to keep my attention on one thing at a time.

Now that I am at Springer, I feel that I have grown so much in the past three years. I can now do my work without having a million thoughts running through my head, I now understand math, and I feel more confident going to a school where other people understand what it is like having a learning disability. Another thing that has been great about Springer is that my biggest class only has 14 students, and every class has assistant teachers. One time in 6<sup>th</sup> grade math class I was struggling with my long division and I was really stressed about it because at my old school if you weren't getting the concept of something the teachers would just let you fall behind. In this incident one of the teachers came up to me and helped me through the whole process, because they saw my struggles and stepped in to help. I am very grateful to have teachers that care and take the time to teach and help me. Springer has taught me to advocate for help, use my math strategies, and to help others when they are struggling. I no longer feel that I am walking through a dry desert. Because I have strategies, I feel like I have been watered and am ready to independently go forth and be successful. Now I feel that I have made my way to the garden full of fruits, vegetables, and good strategies.

Chair Richardson, thank you for allowing me to speak today. I would be happy to answer any questions.