



RE: HB 1656-FN-LOCAL – relative to increasing the adequacy grant for pupils receiving special education services.

Our Council, by law is comprised of at least 60% people with developmental disabilities and parents or guardians of people with developmental disabilities. These members are volunteers advocating for disability justice.

At the NHCDD, we are dedicated to the pursuit of dignity and justice, authentic community inclusion, cultural competency, and self-determination for all New Hampshire residents with developmental disabilities. We feel this bill would be beneficial to the disability community because it would allow for more funding for special education services.

Special education services are severely underfunded throughout the country, and New Hampshire is no exception. By increasing the per pupil spending to this degree, great strides could then be made to ensure that the appropriate number of specialists are hired to support those who need it as well as ensuring that each student is given the individualized supports that they require to succeed. By continuing to fund our state's special education services as little as we do, we are condemning an increasing number of young Granite Staters to a life without an adequate and impactful educational experience, something we all deserve to have.

According to the organization Education Commission of the States, New Hampshire currently offers, by far, the lowest base amount for special education services per student in New England. Increasing the adequacy grant amounts for pupils receiving special education services will go a long way towards the goal of ensuring that all students, regardless of ability, receive an adequate education.