

Alison and Christopher Macera

Bill #5833

For

BY Carson, Cortvriend, Amore, Speakman, Caldwell, Casimiro, Fenton-Fung, Kislak, Craven, Fogarty

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION {LC1455/1} (Establishes the Rhode Island ombudsperson for special education to ensure school districts meet the minimum standards required to comply with an individualized education program for students with disabilities.)

02/24/2021 Introduced, referred to House Education

03/19/2021 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

We are the parents of two daughters ages 14 and 11 who both have 504 plans.

We reside in North Kingstown where our Director of Pupil Personnel Services has created an atmosphere that

It is necessary to have an ombudsperson for special education to ensure what is currently happening to our family and child does not happen to others.

Our daughter has a myriad of disabilities (diagnosed by the best medical professionals in the world) and due to retaliation by the director of special education in our district she is not being afforded a Free Appropriate Public Education.

Her 504 has been violated for over a year. Kindly, we did not report this violation to the Office of Civil Rights. These violations were brought to her attention, the attention of the superintendent, and all members of the team who work with our child.

At meetings we attend via Google Meet, the participants are less than cordial because through COVID the educators have become brazen.

We were shocked, embarrassed, and are still traumatized from our last meeting when our Director and her attorney abruptly ended our meeting and literally hung up a Google Meet without allowing members of the team, including us to finish presenting evidence about our child or ask questions.

Our state needs more than an already overwhelmed RIPIN. We need more accountability for behavior that stands in the way of parents who need support and children who need an education that is rightfully theirs.