
From: Audrey McGowan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Attn. Chair of Law Amendments

Hello, my name is Audrey McGowan, since I likely will be unable to speak in person at the Legislature because there are no more time slots being scheduled for concerned citizens such as myself (even though I asked on Sunday to be placed on the list), I have decided to send by email what I would have said to the Amendments Committee had this process been a fair one...

This government has failed my daughter...for her entire school career, while she struggled with ADHD, and a non-verbal learning disability, English skills that were well below par, math skills that were at a pre-primary level, and her social skills were far behind those of her peers, you were doing multi-million dollar studies on how to help her...while the teachers worked endlessly to do everything in their power to get her the assessments, extra help and resource time that she so desperately needed, you were doing more studies on how to help her, while the teachers cried with me not only at the school, but well after hours on the telephone as well, because my daughter would come home and call herself stupid and there was nothing more they themselves could do for her with the minimal resources they had, and while their hands were tied, they helped me take the steps to get my daughter who was by this point in grade 4, into Bridgeway Academy, a private school with all the bells and whistles for kids with learning disabilities like my daughter's...you were still doing studies...for 4 years, my daughter got the kind of education she deserved, one where each and every student had a learning disability, where many of the teachers themselves understood exactly how hard coping with learning challenges really is because they themselves struggled to overcome them as well, where the sense of I did this, and you can too was in abundance!...for 4 years, and then, sadly, it was decided that there wouldn't be any more funding for my daughter to continue in what was the best possible school environment for her! At the time, I was a single mother, and could barely afford to feed my kids, let alone pay \$12,500 a year to pay for the private school my daughter was thriving in...So while teachers scrambled to get what supports they could

into place to prepare for my daughter to be reintroduced to the public school system, you were still doing studies on how to help her! She went back to public school in grade 8 and was forced to start taking French...the other children in the class had been taking French for 4 years by this point and she was very, very behind having never taken French, but your government decided that French was what she needed...not extra time for math, not extra time for English, and not extra time for social skills training...during her high school career, she has been forced to take the same course 5 times...not because she failed the course...oh no, she has passed the course each and every time! But the class sizes are way too large and the supports for children like her are way too few, so she gets bumped back to the same course over and over, there is not room in ANY other class to accommodate her and her specific needs, and this is at JL Ilsley, a school that our Premier is so excited to be replacing, however there is no money to put into the education of the students inside the school...my daughter is currently on her second year of grade twelve as a returning grad as she is waiting for a transition program that she so desperately needs to prepare her for our world, a world that you did not help me or the teachers prepare her for...you had no time, you were too busy doing more studies...I have heard this government call our teachers greedy over and over and I would like to take a quick moment to talk about how greedy our teachers really are, while my son was in grade 7, he became extremely ill and required life saving surgery...he was out of school for 3 months as he was very weak and his recovery was very slow, the teachers took the time to put together work packages for him so that if he felt strong enough between procedures, he could do work while in the hospital, and then took time out of their already busy schedules, and time away from their own children, to come into my home and tutor him during his long recovery so that he wouldn't fall behind the rest of his class...and because of the teachers and their generous hearts, he didn't! If this is greed, I'm at a loss of words as to what to call a government that refuses to put money into our children's education aside from doing studies...I am far from the only parent with stories just like these, it is for this reason that I beg of you not to let even one more child fall through the cracks...I beg you all to vote no to this bill, and stand with the teachers of Nova Scotia to fight for the education of our future generations, because it is them, and only them, that will prepare them with the educational skills they need to tackle the real world...these children that are

suffering with overcrowded classrooms, lack of supports, resources and teacher time are the exact same children that will one day be sitting in this very room, in these very seats...they will one day run this Country, do you really want them to take on that role without the proper education needed to do so? I certainly don't! Please vote no!

Thank You

Sent from my iPhone