

Kenutted 3-27-07 @ SB1000

September 10, 2006

Senator Florence Shapiro-Chair of the Public Education Committee

Austin, TX

RE: Autism Education Scholarships

Honorable Shapiro-

On January 12, 1993, you were sworn into the Office of Senator of Texas. I have had the pleasure of meeting you in person in Austin and I appreciate your devotion to our state's education and laws. I recognize you as an expert in your field as a Senator and legislator for the state of Texas and its members.

Two years before you were sworn into Office, our youngest son, Jonathan, was sworn into a different life path: Autism. Please consider me a specialist in this area as caretaker of our son and with 5 years experience proven to know the best educational and medical methods that have helped our son to date.

My family has appreciated the public services offered to us through the State of Texas Public Education System and participated for Jonathan's first two years of education. After many attempts of working with the school's administration, the teachers and school environment were not trained and ready for Autism. We removed Jonathan from public school and enrolled him into a private education treatment center that had a proven method of teaching children with Autism.

We paid out of pocket (our savings) for his private education because we could not receive the level of education he needed in our public school. Our goal was to find the right method of teaching for Jonathan and build a capable foundation so he could learn in the public school environment.

Starting August 7, 2006, we have accomplished our goal. Jonathan is back in Allen ISD and he would not be at this stage, ready to learn, without the Private Education we invested in.

I don't see our situation as a failure on the Public Education's part. I truly felt that they were not prepared, nor may ever be, to help teach a foundation for learning to children with Autism.

I support the Autism Education Scholarship Program because it can give a family a choice of education for their child. If the Public Education is not the appropriate education plan for their child, they can have the scholarship to help get to the private education treatments that will educate their child.

Thank you,

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