Lisa Vaillancourt Van Buren

As the mother of a 25-year-old young man on the autism spectrum who graduated with a diploma in 2013, I feel that I have the experience to advocate for LD552. It just makes sense. To be honest, our school district always gave every person in our son's life a voice and a place at the IEP table. Our son had the same Educational Technician for six years and we as parents invited her to every IEP. Please forgive me for not knowing that this is the exception and not the rule in every district. She spent all school day/every school day with our son. She knew him better than anyone in that school. His teachers would also be the first ones to say that she was the reason he succeeded. Of COURSE everyone on the child's team has to be in agreement before any changes are made. I think we can all agree that a child with different needs REQUIRES predictability in order to feel calm throughout their school day. There is no place in that equation for one person making a change. A discussion among all including the student - is essential to determine whether changes are beneficial or detrimental. Please pass this bill. Students with different needs deserve many people in their corner to determine the most effective accommodations that will be the key to their success.