

**Falmouth Public Schools  
District Administration**

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**GRETCHEN McNULTY**  
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Director of Special Education

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Director of Learning

January 30, 2023

To: Senator Pierce and members of the Educational Committee  
From: Gene Kucinkas, Jr. Falmouth Director of Special Education  
LD 98

My name is Gene Kucinkas, Jr. and I am the Director of Special Education in the Falmouth School District.

I want to be clear at the start that I now and always have been in support of timely and appropriate services for children and adults with disabilities and I support many aspects of LD 98, however, I do have concerns with the lack of funding for general education programming, lack of clarity of the Free Appropriate Education (FAPE) standard, recent perception of who may be eligible for extended eligibility to age 22, and delayed pursuit of adult services with the extended eligibility to age 22.

I am completely supportive of the important changes regarding deaf education and aligning those guidelines with current and best practices. I also support the individualization of the process of applying this legislation. My concerns lie in the lack of clarification of the law and the lack of funding. As you are aware, over the past several years staffing issues have arisen in all areas of special education. By not funding this "new" legislation and not providing guidelines about what FAPE means with this legislation, the law will result in under or inadequately funded services for many of our most vulnerable adults.

This law is critical to support some of our young adults, however, it needs funding, clarification and several other corrections, prior to being approved and handed over to the overburdened, understaffed special education field.

Respectfully yours,  
Gene Kucinkas, Jr.  
Director of Special Services  
Falmouth Schools

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