



LOWER HUDSON EDUCATION COALITION

450 Mamaroneck Ave, Harrison, NY 10528 • (914) 345-8737 • www.lhec.org • lhec@lhec.org

Memorandum of Concern S.7866-A Harckham / A.8610-A (Benedetto)

Provides that a student enrolled in an individualized education program during certain school years may continue to receive educational services for a certain period.

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) is a joint project of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents, Dutchess County School Boards Association, Rockland County School Boards Association and Westchester Putnam School Boards Association. We are writing to express our concerns with S.7866-A (Harckham)/A.8610-A (Abinanti). Specifically, we believe that the enactment of this legislation would adversely affect students with individualized education plans (IEPs) and the schools that provide those services.

S.7866-A/A.8610-A would require that students with IEPs who would have aged out of educational services during the 2021-2022 school year, must be eligible to receive services until their IEP is complete or they turn 23-years-old, whichever comes first.

LHEC is concerned that this legislation does not address the true problem that students with disabilities are facing— that the appropriate transitional services and placements following high school do not exist. This legislation simply delays the outcome many of these students will face: entering a society that does not meet their adult needs.

While we appreciate the consideration of the legislature to take incremental steps to address this issue for some students with disabilities, this bill does not make the necessary changes and is overly burdensome on school districts that do not have the resources to implement it. Furthermore, the affected schools are being asked to address a systemic issue without appropriate resources or additional funding. Individuals with IEPs would be best served by a holistic, transitional program that allows them to graduate high school and enter adulthood with the tools and supports needed to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

LHEC respectfully urges the Governor to weigh these concerns while considering this piece of legislation.