

# Attorneys For Education Rights

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January 30, 2023

*VIA EMAIL TRANSMISSION ONLY*

Chair Lisa Wellman and Members of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Re: *SB 5315*

Dear Committee Members:

AFER is a non-profit organization of attorneys who represent parents of students with disabilities. AFER seeks to improve educational outcomes for youth in Washington State through legal advocacy and development of effective educational policies. AFER supports critical oversight by OSPI over private educational institutions receiving public money to serve our state's most vulnerable students. The IDEA holds state educational authorities ultimately responsible for the provision of an appropriate education to students with disabilities, not school districts alone. Another key principle of the IDEA is parent participation and information. Parents of students with IEPs should not have to shed these rights if their child is placed in an NPA.

With regards to the substitute bill, AFER supports physical site visits by both OSPI and school districts, and a three-year preapproval period (not five), for NPA's approved by the State Board of Education. Public policy is not served by creating carveouts for NPA's to avoid oversight.

Sincerely,



Nicholle S. Mineiro, Board President  
Attorneys for Education Rights

**AFER** 

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