

Hello Ken:

Sherrie Brunelle at the Disability Law Project left a message for me this morning regarding Sen Cummings' interest in Act 166. I cannot be at the legislature this afternoon to provide information in person but would like Sen Cummings to know that there is not equity of access to quality early childhood education for young children with disabilities under Act 166. Since school districts do not have to provide special education services to young children attending preschools outside their district lines, parents who cannot place their children in preschools within the school district because of work or other family constraints will be at a disadvantage.

The Vermont Early Childhood Alliance and the Vermont Family Network will be hosting a conversation Monday next week (April 18) with stakeholders - including the Vermont Superintendents Association, Vermont Council of Special Education administrators, Vermont Association of School Boards, as well as representatives from the Vermont Agency of Education and Child Development Division. We hope that this discussion can lend greater clarity and will give all of our groups an opportunity work towards consensus around what the problem is and what type of solution we are seeking at this point.

We would be happy to keep you updated. Please let me know how else I can help at this time.

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