

Thank you, Madam Chair and all members of the Education committee, for the opportunity to speak. My name is Ruth Andrade-McGinnis, I am a daughter of immigrant parents, a loved mother, a proud resident of Aurora and a professional interpreter and translator. Today I am speaking in strong support of HB 23-1263- Translating Individualized Education Programs, and I am asking for your votes in favor of this bill. In my personal experience it is essential that Limited English Proficiency students and families have access to properly translated IEPs. An IEP is a foundational document for students with special needs who require additional educational support. When I was a child in school, often times my teachers would ask me to interpret and translate documents to my parents so “they would understand” what was being said. The burden of translating a legal document should never fall on a child! I became a professional interpreter because I wanted to be part of the solution in a country that has historically practiced language oppression. I work with several school districts who tell the parents they need to monitor the progress of their child’s IEP but all the documentation they receive is in English. Families often ask for a copy of the document in their language and they are told that the schools “don’t have the staff to support with translations but they can copy and paste the documents in google translate”. Monolingual families deserve better, they need information in their preferred language in order to support their children in school.

Thank you, committee, for your time and thank you bill sponsors for introducing HB 23-1263. I ask for your votes in favor of this bill.

House Education

04/10/2023 01:30 PM

HB23-1263 Translating Individualized Education Programs

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Ruth Andrade-McGinnis For themselves	<p>Thank you, Madam Chair and all members of the Education committee, for the opportunity to speak. My name is Ruth Andrade-McGinnis, I am a daughter of immigrant parents, a loved mother, a proud resident of Aurora and a professional interpreter and translator. Today I am speaking in strong support of HB 23-1263- Translating Individualized Education Programs, and I am asking for your votes in favor of this bill. In my personal experience it is essential that Limited English Proficiency students and families have access to properly translated IEPs. An IEP is a foundational document for students with special needs who require additional educational support. When I was a child in school, often times my teachers would ask me to interpret and translate documents to my parents so “they would understand” what was being said. The burden of translating a legal document should never fall on a child! I became a professional interpreter because I wanted to be part of the solution in a country that has historically practiced language oppression. I work with several school districts who tell the parents they need to monitor the progress of their child’s IEP but all the documentation they receive is in English. Families often ask for a copy of the document in their language and they are told that the schools “don’t have the staff to support with translations but they can copy and paste the documents in google translate”. Monolingual families deserve better, they need information in their preferred language in order to support their children in school.</p> <p>Thank you, committee, for your time and thank you bill sponsors for introducing HB 23-1263. I ask for your votes in favor of this bill.</p>
Yuriana Chavira For themselves	<p>Yuriana Chavira, Lafayette, 80026</p> <p>Good afternoon. My name is Yuriana Chavira. I am a mother and community leader from Lafayette. I have 4 children, and 2 of them receive special education services and have IEPs. I am very happy to be here and to be given this opportunity. This afternoon I want to talk about the IEP documents. I speak in support of HB 23-1263 The Translation of IEPs, and ask for your votes in favor of this bill.</p> <p>In my experience, I have not had the opportunity to receive the documentation in my language. This caused a great deal of frustration for me, as I did not understand what was being said in these documents and I didn't know what I was signing. My frustration and fear was so great that I decided that my first child who had an IEP should not take this help, because I did not want to feel compromised with something that I did not understand the implications for. Standing here in front of you today</p>

	<p>makes me a little nervous, but knowing that you can do something fills me with joy and confidence.</p> <p>This proposal is truly important as it will support the parents who are feeling the same frustration, fear, or anger that I was in the beginning. My hope is that this bill will pass and that all of our people will be able to review their children's documents in their native language. All children deserve their parents to receive this important documentation in their language so they can make the best decisions.</p> <p>I repeat it again: I am standing in front of you for so many parents who cannot be fighting for this law right now. Thank you again for allowing me to be here and listen to me.</p> <p>I ask for your votes in favor of HB1263. ****</p>
<p>Damary Yanes For themselves</p>	<p>Estimados representantes, gracias por la oportunidad de hablar. Mi nombre es Damary Yanes, y soy una mamá de Lafayette. Hoy hablo en apoyo a HB 23-1263- Translating Individualized Education Programs, y les pido sus votos a favor de este proyecto de ley.</p> <p>Yo tengo una hija que tenía un plan individualizado de educación, un IEP. Siendo una madre latina que habla como primer idioma español, me generaba mucha frustración, tristeza, impotencia al recibir un IEP en inglés. Aunque participaba de forma activa en la realización de este plan, no recibí esta información en español, pero si tenía que firmarlo para que procediera con los servicios que necesitaba mi hija. Me sentí presionada en cierto modo a firmar el plan. Considero que los padres latinos que hablan español merecemos que la información referente a nuestros hijos/hijas las recibamos en nuestro idioma, previo a tener que firmar documentos con información susceptible o relacionada con nuestros hijos/hijas.</p> <p>Gracias al comité por su tiempo y gracias a los patrocinadores del proyecto de ley por presentar HB 23-1263. Les pido sus votos a favor de este proyecto de ley.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Dear representatives, thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Damary Yanes, and I am a Lafayette mom. Today I speak in support of HB 23-1263- Translating Individualized Education Programs, and I ask for your votes in favor of this bill.</p> <p>I have a daughter who had an individualized education plan, an IEP. Being a Latina mother who speaks Spanish as her first language, I was very frustrated, sad, and helpless when receiving an IEP in English.</p>

	<p>Although I actively participated in the realization of this plan, I did not receive this information in Spanish. I felt somewhat pressured to sign the plan to proceed so that my daughter could receive the services she needed. I believe that as Latino parents who speak Spanish, we deserve to receive information regarding our sons/ daughters in our language, prior to having to sign documents with information sensitive to or related to our sons/daughters.</p> <p>Thank you committee for your time and thank you to the bill sponsors for filing HB 23-1263. I ask for your votes in favor of this bill.</p>
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