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To: All Members of the New Jersey State Board of Education:

I'm here today to speak about a special education. My name is Eryn Delgado. I am 9 years old and I have autism. My case is somewhat unique. I was denied early intervention services because I am smart. Unfortunately that was a very wrong decision for the district to make. I needed speech and OT services. I didn't receive any services until the 3rd grade and only because my mom and dad fought very hard to get them for me. I have been bounced around from school to school. I have been sent home many times because of my behavior. Since kindergarten I have been in 5 different schools. Next year I will be going to a new school.. This will be my 6th school and I am only in 3rd grade right now. I want to stay in one school, make friends and flourish in a stable school environment. Please be very careful when deciding to make changes to IDEA. What I need is simple a good program to fit my needs This can only be achieved if IDEA is not chopped up and discarded. Our stay put should stay put. Please don't weakening the rules concerning manifestation determination. My parents work very hard so that I will succeed and become a good member of society. Won't you help too?

I am autism, I am here and I matter.

I have autism. I have a future, I have potential and I can make a contribution. I am here and I matter.

Eryn Delgado

