

The following text was created by Grace Theisen who wanted to use her Practice session to write a letter to share her feelings about HB1215 not passing. Her practitioner types the questions, and Grace's responses follow and are marked by "G:".

S2C with Beth 5-28-2026

Hi G, how are you?

G: I'm doing ok , just disappointed and frustrated. If Avard cared for his constituents, he would get up the nerve and call. Who does that? He should want to hear what we have to say! Maybe a letter is a good idea.

Do you want to write him a letter today as your s2c practice?

G: you bet so upset

I'm sure you are. OK.

The floor is yours. What do you want to say? We can formalize it after you write the meat of it.

G: Dear Representative Avard,

I am writing as a constituent and on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. As a woman who is a member of the nonspeaking community, communication is something that was inaccessible to me for most of my life. Through an abundance of dedication and hard work, three years ago I finally gained the ability to express myself through something called spelling to communicate, S2C. When I want to say something, I go through the laborious process of typing it out one letter at a time. This is a difficult thing for someone like me, a nonspeaker who cannot always control what her body does. A long time ago, the experts assumed I couldn't ever communicate as any other intelligent person. For so long my voice was silent, as are the voices of a whole group of nonspeakers being forced to play by someone else's rules. Using communication devices that truly work for my needs and disability are life changing and essential. Managing school with autism made things hard enough without a tool for meaningful communication.

I am sad and frustrated that others like myself will have to suffer like I did.

Please understand my point of view because it is the only one that may raise others' awareness of Spelling2Communicate.

Grace Theisen