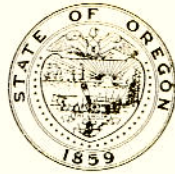


**RICHARD DEVLIN**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
DISTRICT 19



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**900 COURT ST NE**  
**SALEM, OR 97301**

April 1, 2013

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit a letter in support of House Bill 3264, of which I am a proud chief-sponsor. While serving Senate District 19, I have had the pleasure to get to know my constituent, Scott Hatley. Mr. Hatley, who has muscular dystrophy, is an inspirational advocate for people with disabilities. Through the important work of his organization, Incight, he empowers disabled adults to become confident and contributing members of society.

Incight assists people with disabilities engage in traditional post-high school activities. Currently, only 16 percent of people with disabilities attend college and 12 percent graduate with a bachelor's degree. Unemployment rates for disabled adults are high as well, ranging from 54 percent for those with a college diploma to 68 percent for those with a high school diploma. Incight has developed programs in four critical areas to address this deficit: education, employment, networking, and independence. These programs provide people with disabilities with the tools to live richer and more independent lives.

Through Incight's education program, students visit college campuses, build study skills and familiarize themselves with the application process. They also receive coaching on topics such as disability disclosure, assistive technology, self-advocacy, and independent living. Job seekers with disabilities receive job training and resources within the organization's employment program. Incight connects people with volunteer opportunities, internships, and jobs. In eight years, Incight has coached 2,900 students for college, helped students earn 630 scholarships, and provided job seekers with 100 internships.

HB 3264 enables Incight to apply its proven model in our public schools. The proposed program would help ensure that disabled students actively participate in the state's progress towards its 40-40-20 goals. This program would be a sound investment for the state, potentially leading to cost savings in areas such as health care and human services. More importantly, Incight's program would provide disabled students with the resources to become engaged community members.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider HB 3264.

Sincerely,

Senator Richard Devlin  
Senate District 19

