

8685 SW White Pine Lane

Portland, OR 97225

March 30th, 2013

Dear House of Representatives Education Committee:

I am writing as a parent of a person with a disability to express my support for House Bill 3264 and I am asking that you also will support it in the legislature.

Upon finishing high school only 18% of disabled students receive a college education and 1 in 5 disabled people have a full time job. In order to improve these statistics the Incight organization has coached 2,900 students for college, connected students with 630 scholarships, and helped job seekers participate in 100 internships in the last eight years by creating innovative and much needed programs.

Bill 3264 would make it possible to establish a unique pilot program with the Department of Education to allow high school students with disabilities to gain strategies to help them find post high school opportunities. Let me explain why this bill is so meaningful for the disabled high school community.

Luke, my son, who is a senior in high school, has set a goal to become a professional engineer. He has worked hard to achieve the necessary grades and has been admitted to college. Since he is physically disabled he needs to employ a personal care attendant at college. Therefore, learning how to secure funding for a personal care attendant, how to advertise, interview and work with multiple caregivers is an essential part of his college preparation.

With the help of this pilot program his high school transition teacher would have a research based curriculum to enable her to provide much needed learning opportunities to match Luke's needs. By having the information, strategies and supports, Luke and disabled people like him can learn to support themselves and participate fully in college or in the workplace.

I appreciate you taking a moment to learn about how important Bill 3264 is for people with disabilities. Please lend your support to this Bill. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joanne Brown