



Dear Representative Betty Komp and the members of the House of Representatives Education Committee:

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

My name is Malissa Larson and I am the Director of Disability Services at Western Oregon University. Western Oregon University has been making great efforts recently to be valuable contributors to the 40-40-20 goal. In order to adequately address the barriers related to this goal, Oregon is going to need to establish supports to ensure that students with disabilities have the resources and tools necessary to succeed. This curriculum is just one step toward helping prepare students with disabilities to reach this crucial benchmark.

As a professional who has worked with people with disabilities for over 14 years, I have personally witnessed the gaps that directly impact students who are on IEPs and 504s being served under IDEA. In my current position in higher education and in my previous position as a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor these gaps are directly impacting students with disabilities in their transition after high school. I believe the HB 3264 will be a great step towards minimizing and hopefully eliminating barriers to successful transitions for students with disabilities. Successful transition into post high school life includes but is not limited to support for applying to higher education, securing gainful employment and/or achieving independent living. I am aware minimizing the current barriers to successful transition cannot be the responsibility of one group or service. For this reason, I appreciate the outstanding work of organizations such as InCight and the work they do which has such a significant impact on these issues.

I both personally and professionally support HB 3264 and I hope you will join me in doing so as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for taking the time to consider such a valuable bill as HB 3264.

Sincerely,

Malissa B. Larson