



House Education Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: Letter in Support of SB 135**

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

I submit this letter for the record on behalf of The Child Center in support of Senate Bill 135. The Child Center is a non-profit human services agency that has been offering a continuum of psychiatric, therapeutic and special education programs throughout Lane County since 1971 and in Central Oregon since 2011.

The Oregon Department of Education is responsible for funding education programs for children receiving psychiatric care in a day treatment program like that at The Child Center. These special education programs are called Long Term Care and Treatment (LTCT) programs.

Senate Bill 135 is derived from recommendations made by the Task Force on School Funding, created by the passage of House Bill 2506 in 2013. It is one of several recommendations from the task force on how to improve LTCT programs.

Senate Bill 135 will allow the Department of Education to fund LTCT programs via grants to school districts and ESDs, as opposed to the more administratively burdensome method of administering contracts. The department will establish criteria that school districts and ESDs must meet in order to receive the grant funding.

It is my hope that SB 135 in combination with criteria to ensure the grant funding reaches the classroom and additional funding for teachers and

classroom aides will bring much-needed improvements to LTCT education programs.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bill Wellard, Executive Director  
The Child Center