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To: Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Samantha Morgan

RE: SB 231

Hello Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for letting me speak. My name is Samantha Morgan and I am here to talk about the desperate need for resources for not only people with disabilities but for those who need mental health help or someone who can provide resources and help with those who are neurodivergent. There is a great deficiency in the services currently available to the students who need them. I don't just speak as a student who cares, but as a student who faces a lack of resources or understanding needed to remain successful in school so that I may complete my degree in human services and be able to help future communities in Oregon.

I am lucky that I can see my much required counseling and medications outside of school, but I need more support. I could receive services for my Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, but my anxiety related disorders and other debilitating disorders will be overlooked. I need more support from my school to remain successful. There needs to be equity between people with mental health difficulties, people with disabilities, to people who are neurodivergent.

To help these students achieve the success they deserve in their journey through higher education we need to first assess what resources and supports are available. From here we can find the deficiencies in our systems. We need serious discussion on this matter. Students are in need and you can help them. Will you support this bill and help the students who are overlooked daily in their struggles?