

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to advocate for HB 3263. I practice as a private pediatric therapist and treat many children who also receive school-based services. I hear often from parents that they are unsatisfied with the therapy their children receive at school; specifically the frequency (or infrequency of services). I treat each child on my caseload for one hour, weekly. Many children in the school see an occupational therapist once a month for thirty minutes. I am often told that one month of private therapy encourages more progress than a year of school-based services. This does not have to be the case!

Unfortunately, private clinics in Oregon and SW Washington are unable to keep up with the demand for child therapy services. My clinic has a 5-6 month waiting list to begin services following an evaluation. This means that many children are only receiving school services during critical years of development.

It is time that Oregon recognizes the value of occupational therapy services and adopts new provisions to support therapists and students.

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