

To Whom it may concern:

School-based OTs are clinicians who addresses sensorimotor, psychosocial and cognitive skills that support children in their educational programs. Presently in Oregon there are no state guidelines for school-based OT workloads. By this I mean that caseloads exceed 100 students. Other states have lower caseloads and are able to provide best practice care. Many therapists leave because the stress to see that many students is too high. They seek other other higher paying jobs in other areas of the country such as private clinics. In addition the federal law that requires OT service on the IEP (IDEA) is not being fulfilled due to lack of workload regulation. Therapists and agencies can't simply see that many students thereby not seeing students. By supporting HB 3263 will lead to a better management of OT service in schools, which improves the student's access to education and adhering to the federal law of IDEA. Possible solutions would be the use of cost-efficient COTAs, and adopting guidelines from other states ( i.e. workload formulas-NC and/or caseload caps-WA).

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