

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support and advocate for HB 3263. As a school-based occupational therapist contracted in Washington State, but also licensed in Oregon, I have first hand experience with the benefits and challenges that occupational therapists face in the school system. For many of the children I serve, school-based services are the only type of therapy kids may have access to because of their parents' socioeconomic status. Occupational therapists play a critical role in assisting children with disabilities to access curriculum by addressing sensorimotor, psychosocial, visual and cognitive skills. Additionally, we assist teachers and school personnel with implementing modifications and accommodations to help children access educational materials.

Putting a cap on case load for school-based occupational therapists ensures that therapists can create a schedule in which children receive the dose/frequency of therapy minutes they need. I strongly encourage Oregon to follow Washington State in implementing a case load cap to improve student outcomes and occupational therapist's ability to adhere with federal law.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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