



April 3, 2017

TO: Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair
House Committee On Education
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: HB 3318

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is the designated Protection and Advocacy program for Oregon. DRO is mandated by federal and state law to advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Since our founding in 1977, we have assisted thousands of students with disabilities and their families who experience barriers to receiving a free and appropriate education.

DRO supports HB 3318 in that it directs the involvement of service providers in the development and implementation of behavior intervention plans. The proposed -1 amendments also require that a plan is properly implemented before it is modified. These mandates increase the possibility that school districts will implement the provisions of the federal IDEA law in an effective manner.

DRO and other advocacy organizations that assist students with disabilities and their families have received a steadily increasing number of complaints in recent years regarding the exclusion of student with disabilities from the classroom and the school. In some districts, one hour of tutoring per day is substituted for any serious effort to return the student to school with an adequate behavior intervention plan. We hope that HB 3318 will help to reverse this trend.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 3318.