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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 3, 2017
TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Ava Bartley, FACT Oregon
RE: HB 3263

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Hernandez and Wilson, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Ava Bartley, and I am the Advocacy and Engagement Director for FACT Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on **HB 3263**, which directs the State Board of Education to adopt by rule standards for provision of occupational therapy services to students with disabilities.

FACT Oregon's mission is to empower Oregon families experiencing disability in pursuit of whole lives in their community. We do this with focused work in three interconnected areas: expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families. The outcome is families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where all communities are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

Since 2012, FACT Oregon has been Oregon's parent training and information center through a grant from the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. Through services created "by families for families," we have helped thousands of families each year navigate barriers, create a culture of inclusion, and demonstrate that a whole life is possible. We do this through in-person trainings, educational conferences, webinars, and support through our statewide helpline via phone and email.

Occupational therapy services can be critical in supporting a child who experiences disability as they access their educational environment. We support HB 3263 because it will bring more rigor to the provision of Occupational Therapy services to students with disabilities. The bill also provides guidance for provision of services by

Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

Occupational Therapy Assistants, expanding capacity and ensuring additional OT resources are available. Additional resources lead to an increased likelihood that these services can be provided for students in the general education classroom setting.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your support of Oregon children experiencing disability.

Ava Bartley
Advocacy and Engagement Director
FACT Oregon