

To those it concerns,

I am writing to support quality Occupational Therapy services for students in the schools. I am an OT and have worked in the schools since 1991. Our workload has doubled in that time and we are no longer able to meet the needs of our diverse and significantly impacted students adequately. HB 3263 seeks to remedy this situation.

- School-based OTs are clinicians who addresses sensorimotor, psychosocial and cognitive skills that support children in their educational programs.
- There are currently no state guidelines for school-based OT workloads in Oregon.
- Many OT caseloads exceed 100 students - some of the highest nationally.
- Results are high burn-out/turnover rates, and inefficient service delivery.
- Federal law, requiring adequate OT as a 'related service' on an IEP (IDEA) is not being adhered to statewide due to lack of workload regulation.
- Supporting HB 3263 leads to better management of OT service in schools which improves student outcomes and ensures adherence to federal law (IDEA).
- Possible solutions include adopting guidelines from other states ( i.e. workload formulas-NC and/or caseload caps-WA).

Thank you for your time in considering this important legislation.

Gina Barnes, OTL

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10