

To Whom it May Concern:

I am an occupational therapist working in the schools of Oregon. I have a caseload of approximately 105 students at this time. I serve 4 school districts. School-based occupational therapists are a related service for students in special education and address sensorimotor, psychosocial, and cognitive concerns as related to the students access to his/her education. Currently the state of Oregon does not have any guidelines regarding school-based occupational therapy workloads or caseloads. The federal law of IDEA 2004, requires adequate occupational therapy as a related service on an individualized education plan; the associated workload of a caseload of 100+ does not allow for adherence to this law. Supporting HB 3263 leads to better management of occupational therapy services in schools which improves student outcomes and ensures adherence to federal law IDEA 2004. Possible solutions include increasing the use of cost-efficient certified occupational therapy assistants, and adopting guidelines from other states (i.e. workload formulas from North Carolina and/or caseload caps from Washington).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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