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Subject: HB 3263

To: "[OTAlegislativecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:OTAlegislativecommittee@gmail.com)" <[otalegislativecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:otalegislativecommittee@gmail.com)>

I am writing in support of HB 3263, which is meant to manage caseloads of OT's working in schools with children with special needs.

OT's in schools support children with a wide range of difficulties including writing problems, learning disabilities, motor impairments or sensory overload. Due to the wide range of problems OT's can help students and teachers with, their services are well used in school. But Oregon has a problem. We don't have any caps on the number of children on an OT's caseload. This has led to under staffing and unmanageable caseloads, thus inadequate support for kids.

In my job as OT at OHSU's Child Development and Rehabilitation Center, see kids from all over the state and hear from families about the inadequate levels of OT in schools to service their children. And over my 27 years in this job I have seen a steady erosion of the level of these services due to the high caseloads and low staffing issues. In Washington, they have caseload limits. We need this in Oregon! We recently lost a wonderful therapist to Washington state due to this very reason.

I urge you to support HB 3263 to make OT jobs more manageable in our schools and to support the children and teachers who need these services. Thank you for your attention.

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