

Wendy Miller  
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Portland, OR 97215  
May 16, 2017

Representative Margaret Doherty  
[Rep.MargaretDoherty@oregnlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.MargaretDoherty@oregnlegislature.gov)  
RE: SB 1002

Dear Representative Margaret Doherty:

This letter is in regards to SB 1002. I am very concerned about this issue and **I want you to schedule SB 1002 for a WORK SESSION**. I have a personal experience to share in direct regard to why this bill is so important. My son Noah Miller attended Atkinson Elementary K-5 – which is a Portland Public School. In the middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Noah was diagnosed with dyslexia by physicians at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in Portland. By the time Noah made it to 4<sup>th</sup> grade he still could not read because the school failed to provide proper instruction. At which point I began paying out of pocket for a certified tutor. The Orton Gillingham program that Noah took part in lasted two full years (2x a week for an hour each session). I approached the school (met with principal) to have Noah’s tutor work with him at school, which would have been ideal. The answer was NO. The only option I was given was to pay for use of building after school hours. Paying for tutoring space additionally was cost prohibitive to me, a single mom who was already paying the tutor. As a working parent it was incredible difficult to take my child 2x a week for two years to the Blosser Center. It would have been the least restrictive and the least impactful for Noah to have been tutored at school. The impact on my family was huge. Two times per week I had to worry about getting Noah to a tutoring session, missing work, burning up my vacation time and sitting in traffic. People have jobs and they work, an intense 2-year long program is a huge impact on families like mine where resources are limited and we do not have accommodating work schedules. I think getting to a point where all Oregon public schools are teaching all kids to read is the goal. BUT, in the meantime the least that can be done is accommodate the needs of families to have their children tutored in the least restrictive environment, which should include the child’s school as an option. **Everything must be done to change the state of things!**

Sincerely,

Wendy Miller

cc [hed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov) please ensure my letter is part of the Committee’s record.

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