



February 21, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Anna Keenan-Mudrick and Bernie Wilson, Co-Chairs, IDD Coalition

RE: Support for SB 263

---

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coalition (IDD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equality and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

The IDD Coalition believes that Oregon schools are strongest when all students have effective supports and are included in the school community. Abbreviated school days remove students from the school community and limit their ability to learn from their teachers and peers.

We continue to hear from families that despite the Oregon Department of Education Executive Numbered Memo 009-2015-16, students are still experiencing abbreviated school days in unprecedented rates, especially as it relates to behavior issues. It is often very daunting for families to navigate the IEP process to get a functional behavior assessment and positive behavior supports in place for their child. Communication in these situations is key, and the SB 263 procedures would help families have a clear procedure and communication path to follow in these circumstances.

Schools also have a responsibility to ensure that student needs are met so the student can learn. We have strong concerns that students on abbreviated school plans are not able to access the curriculum while learning and growing as part of their school community. Cutting a student's connection to their school community creates a sense of not belonging that can have ramifications into adulthood.

We urge you to put in place clear guidelines around the use of abbreviated school day programs by passing SB 263.