

HB 4067

Chair Roblan and members of the committee:

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition supports the efforts to get children who have been provided special education services prior to entrance into kindergarten into special education on entrance to kindergarten.

We have members who are both active and retired educators and this has been a very important issue for them. They have faced the reality of having children in their classrooms who are in need of the services provided by a special education plan who are not receiving services because Oregon doesn't automatically enroll children with developmental delay into special education.

As a result, these children are often not placed into special education until the third grade. By that time they are behind where they might have been in their educational achievement. Continuing to provide these children with special education as they enter kindergarten seems like a logical and ethical provision of services.

The cost to provide these services at an early stage might save money in the long run. Providing these services at an appropriate time should also help the educators in the classrooms in which these children are placed. It is a real problem and it is past time for Oregon to join the other states, 30 of them, who do this automatically.

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