



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2019  
TO: House Committee on Education  
FROM: Roberta Dunn, FACT Oregon  
RE: Support for HB 2676

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Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Roberta Dunn, and I am the Executive Director of FACT Oregon. FACT Oregon's mission is to empower Oregon families experiencing disability in pursuit of whole lives in their community. We do this with focused work in three interconnected areas: *expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.*

Through services created "by families for families," we have helped thousands of families each year navigate barriers, create a culture of inclusion, and demonstrate that a whole life is possible. The outcome of our work is engaged families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where all communities, including their school communities, are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

We support HB 2676, a bill that raises the cap for additional State School Fund monies for students eligible for special education from 11% to 13%. We were glad to see this bill come around again this session, after unsuccessful attempts in 2015 and 2017. Our work with Oregon families has given us the opportunity to see first-hand the challenges Oregon school districts have in fully meeting the needs of all students experiencing disabilities when they do not have adequate resources.

According to the Oregon Department of Education in its Agency Overview presentation to Joint Committee on Ways and Means this legislative session, **13.6%** of Oregon's K-12 student population are students with disabilities. Yet school districts across the state only receive the "double weight" of ADMw under the State School Fund formula for up to 11% of students eligible for special education as a

child with a disability. This gap in funding, coupled with the failure of the Federal government to fulfill its promise to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), presents significant challenges to school districts across the state as they attempt to meet their responsibility under IDEA to provide students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment when they do not have adequate resources.

We urge your support of HB 2676 so that the additional investment the legislature makes in students eligible for special education through the State School Fund more closely matches the actual population of students with disabilities in most school districts across the state.

Roberta Dunn  
Executive Director  
FACT Oregon