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Co-Vice Chair Representative David Gomberg

Co-Vice Chair Representative Greg Smith

Members of the Committee

RE: Ways and Means District 1 Virtual Roadshow

Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

FACT Oregon is the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, designated Parent Training Information (PTI) Center serving Oregon families as they navigate raising a child experiencing disability. Providing peer delivered support that is by families, for families, we equip and empower families of youth experiencing disability to have high expectations as they pursue whole, full lives in community.

Whole, full lives begin with access to high quality, inclusive opportunities for early learning and care. Please prioritize funding for Early Learning and Care, including funding for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education and the Regional Programs to support our youngest learners get off to a great start.

Whole, full lives continue in school when inequity in opportunity is addressed, and our schools are accessible, inclusive, welcoming places that appreciate and value diversity. Please support the Oregon Partners for Education Justice funding priorities, including dedicated funding for the SIA implementation.

Lastly, but most importantly, whole, full lives happen in community and continue for a lifetime. Please prioritize investment in services and supports for individuals with Intellectual Developmental disability, including —

- DD Case Management at a ratio that supports stability and continuity.
- DSP Wages at a rate that honors the critical role they play in supporting one in community.
- Data System that will support efforts to ensure that there is equitable access to services.

<u>AND</u> Reinstate the \$1.3 million to allow ODDS to pursue the evidence based, best practices of peer delivered support with funding for Family-to-Family Networks.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Roberta Dunn, Executive Director