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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB575

March 14, 2023

Chair Dembrow
Vice-Chair Weber

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

RE: Support of SB 575 – Student Success Plan for Students with Disabilities

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,
I am a parent of a student receiving special education services in Multnomah County, Parkrose School District and I am writing in support of SB 575 to establish the Student Success Plan for Students with Disabilities.

My son Andrew is 13 and in 7th grade. He experiences Down Syndrome. While society typically assumes Andrew is the same as other children with Ds, he is not and is his own person. He should have the same ability to graduate as any other. He should not be segregated education the way he is now.

SB 575 would create targeted strategies to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities by:

- Better preparing teachers and school staff to serve students with disabilities through professional development and inclusionary best practices.
- Improving data disaggregation to reveal disproportionate outcomes at disability intersections like race, ethnicity, gender identity, location, educational placement, and disability type. This will help us target our approach to the students who are at greatest risk of being left behind.
- Fostering better engagement between families and educators by establishing Special Education Advisory Councils in each school district, or within education service districts serving small districts.

Please support SB 575 and the creation of a Students with Disabilities Success Plan, so we can ensure that all students have the resources they need to thrive.

Thank you,
Kelly Sellon