

Submitter: Patricia Cavanaugh
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB575

Hello,

I'm a member of FACT Oregon's board but am submitting written testimony as an individual.

As many of you know, students with disabilities disproportionately face vast systemic inequities, leading to among the worst outcomes of any student group in our state. They have one of the lowest graduation rates, experience huge achievement gaps in reading and math, and continue to be disciplined twice as often as other students. While disability overlaps all demographic student groups, including other priority populations that the Student Success Act and Student Success Plans supports, none of these plans specifically address the specific barrier – ableism - that impacts students with disabilities.

Given ongoing inequities for students with disabilities, we must take decisive action to create targeted strategies for students with disabilities that will improve educational access, equity, and outcomes. Using a targeted universalist approach, SB 575 would: Provide professional development in best practices for educators and staff to improve outcomes for SWD.

Create a system to improve data disaggregation to help us home in on disproportionate outcomes (academic proficiency, disciplinary action, non-completion, and diploma acquisition) by educational placement, disability classification, race, ethnicity, gender identity, economic instability, geographic location, and other intersections.

Create authentic engagement between families and educators by establishing Special Education Advisory Councils in each school district, or within education service districts serving small districts.

Thank you,
Patricia Cavanaugh