

March 20, 2023

Dear Representative Val Hoyle,

I am a public school educator who works as the Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) for Talented and Gifted Education in the Siuslaw School District 97J. In the last 23 years I've dedicated my career to teaching 2nd-6th graders, and now it's my pleasure to coordinate our Talented and Gifted program.

I strongly support **SB595**. This bill ensures that 1% of state dollars to schools is earmarked funding for TAG for each district. We desperately need this funding to help provide training for our teachers to better meet the needs of students who demonstrate a level of exceptionality that requires modifications to their instruction. **Teachers need training** on how to skillfully **differentiate their instruction** to meet the needs of their students who are requiring more. Funding for high quality training is key to improving instructional practices, and earmarked TAG funding would make a significant difference in the quality of instruction.

As the only TAG Coordinator at Siuslaw School District who is responsible for advocating for TAG student needs, and helping teachers improve their practices to meet those needs, I will tell you that teacher training is needed in this regard.

Please vote YES on SB595. We are counting on your support so we can better support the needs of this population of students.

Sincerely,



Kelly Dotson
87969 Rhododendron Dr.
Florence, OR 97439