

March 20, 2023

Dear Oregon State Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Scott Schinderle and I am a professional partner and supporter of Serendipity Center. We need more options like Serendipity Center on our continuum of services to support a vast range of student needs.

I am writing to ask you to support a bill that will come up for a hearing in the Senate Education Committee on March 21. Senate Bill 633 sets aside critical funding for Oregon's highest needs students. The bill would establish a special education multi-district collaborative model which promotes the establishment of a network of special education centers in Oregon dedicated to healing our youth who struggle with the most acute mental health and disability challenges.

While our school district is very good at serving students needing special education, we don't always have the resources to provide the individualized, structured, and therapeutic services our population of students deserve. Serendipity offers in-person, full time educational opportunities, along with the caring special education and mental health supports that our students need.

As a strong believer in Serendipity Center's mission and model to provide evidence-based, trauma-informed services to public school students, I support Senate Bill 633. This bill would advance the field of special education and children's mental health in Oregon so that more students will receive an equitable education experience and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Schinderle
Executive Director