

Submitter: Jennifer Sonntag

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

I am a parent of a child who has consistently been underserved in the Portland public school system. Because I am a behavioral specialist, I've been able to work with him on social skills and coregulation, and I've been able to take time off of work to support him when he isn't functioning well at school. This has limited my ability to be a part of my community, and I rely on OHP and snap benefits because I cannot work full-time. I am starting to look at charter in private schools as our system is not set up to support roughly 17 to 25% of our School aged children. I am desperate for help in fostering a sense of independence and appreciation for academics; our teachers are maxed out and unable to redirect their attention to the kids who need more scaffolding, and parents in the system have had to step up and support them, though we are constantly met with restrictions on the ways that we can participate in the classroom. This is directly impacting enrollment in the district, it's impacting our ability to show up for our communities, it's going to impact our economy as these kids age out of secondary education. Please change this vicious cycle.