

February 16, 2025

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I honor and respect the work you are doing for the children of Oregon. As a grandparent, I am in favor of fully funding special education and Mental health services for the children of Oregon. The State has not been able to fully fund special education services because of a mandatory cap of only serving 11% of the school population.

According to *Education Week* (7/31/2023) the number of students needing special services in the United States has doubled over 40 years. Oregon, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics (2021-22) has a need to serve 14.8% of its school population.

Not serving all of the students that need special services, leaves local districts vulnerable in a legal as well as a moral sense. As a grandparent who believes that all children in this state are our children, I am encouraging you to pass HB 2953.

Please support removing the percentage cap on the amount of money that is distributed to our Oregon school children to support those needing special services..

Sincerely,

Sara Eck, Member
Sacred Organizing Coalition