

Submitter: Stacey Holeman  
On Behalf Of: SpEd students and families  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

I am a retired Special Ed teacher who directed a program for multiply disabled and medically fragile students the last 10 years of my teaching career. The 11% cap on funding for students with disabilities is unrealistic for the majority of school districts in Oregon. This creates a hardship for districts where the percentage of SpEd students exceeds 11% but can also create issues that harm students and their families. In some districts teachers are pressured by administration to release students from SpEd eligibility and remove their specially designed instruction prematurely or to slow the process of finding and assessing students who need special support to access their education.

I support this bill to remove the 11% cap and to trust educational professionals to assess and make eligible the children who need special ed services and for districts to receive appropriate funding for the actual percentage of those students and not an artificially limited percentage.