



February 17, 2025

Matt Serres, Policy Director
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
2475 SE Ladd Ave #231
Portland, OR 97214

RE: Testimony to House Committee on Education for House Bill 2448 (Neutral)

To Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the
Committee:

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) works to create change so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. Equipping schools with the resources to provide the appropriate level of assistance for each student's unique needs empowers those students to reach their full potential. For students with the highest needs, however, schools do not have the resources to cover the costs of providing required services.

The High Cost Disability Account in Oregon currently covers only about 40% of the costs for students whose special education expenses exceed \$30,000 annually,¹ leaving districts with a significant financial shortfall. House Bill 2448 increases funding for the Account and relieves that strain, providing more financial support to students with disabilities. With adequate state funding school districts will not be left covering a disproportionate amount of their special education costs.

HB 2448 will boost educators' ability to provide the necessary supports for high-need students without compromising other programs and services. Schools are

¹ Oregon School Boards Association. "State School Fund Shorts Special Education Funding Costs." Available at <https://www.osba.org/state-school-fund-shorts-special-education-funding-costs/>



required to offer a defined level of support and maintain that spending no matter their budget.

Increasing funding for the High Cost Disability Account strengthens school districts capacity to fully meet the needs of every student. By addressing the gap in funding, school districts can provide appropriate supports and preserve resources for other essential educational services. Fulfilling the obligation to our children with intellectual and developmental disabilities also means a more equitable educational environment for students across Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2448.