

Submitter: Stephanie Stevens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

Hello Chair Neron, Vice-chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for making sure every child gets the education and support they deserve in Oregon.

As a parent of a special needs child that receives a high level of care in a structured learning classroom at Ardenwald Elementary in North Clackamas school district in Milwaukie Oregon, I want to advocate for the passage of HB 2953 and legislation that will fully fund special education services. I am also with the Sacred Organizing Coalition whose organizations and initiatives share a commitment to organizing the hundreds of community based teams they work with and the thousands of Oregonians that are part of these local groups that are trying to propel us toward an Oregon of inclusion.

Every student in Oregon deserves an equitable education and that means getting the support they need to thrive. Because of this outdated funding there isn't near enough funding to support the 80,000 students currently in our schools. The needs have drastically increased for special education services as more and more children are receiving autism or anxiety diagnosis.

We need to do better for our children and a law from the 90's to dictate whose children get to belong in Oregon schools. Every child, deserves to belong here and feel supported. Given the current federal administrations acts towards anyone different, from sexuality to immigration status, we need to act quickly to secure what we can to provide for this marginalized group of students.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your consideration. We are all counting on you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stevens