

February 17, 2025
House Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Statement in Support for HB 2953 – Special Education Cap Funding

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire and Members of the Committee,

As I stated in earlier written testimony I urge you to prioritize investments in special education this session. In addition to passing HB 2448 with the -1 amendment, please pass HB2953 as well.

As a retired Portland Public School special educator I believe that HB 2953 is a bill desperately needed to provide additional resources to students receiving special education services. It will support school districts by changing our outdated Oregon State School Fund formula that now caps the number of special education students a district can count at 11%. For comparison, during the 2024-25 school year, 17% of Portland Public Schools students received special education services. However, removing or raising the cap alone will not succeed if we do not add additional investments to provide funds to bring us closer to meeting full funding.

I understand the difficulty as you look at the competing needs in our state budget. However, it is now time to step up to the increasing demands of students needing special education services and provide our schools the necessary funds to meet the needs of students to which they are rightfully entitled. Please support HB 2953 to the full extent possible.

Thank you,

Dave Albertine

2605 NE 25th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97212