

Submitter: Hilary Nichols  
On Behalf Of: Sacred Organizing Coalition  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

Dear House Committee on Education,

My name is Hilary Nichols and I am a mom to a beautiful three-year-old child. I'm so excited for my child to enter into the public school system in a few years, but it gives me great concern that Oregon's State School Fund is currently not funding all of the special education services needed by nearly 80,000 students in the state, year after year. Because of an outdated formula designed in the 1990s, a school district can only get special education funding for 11% of its students - currently leaving out over 19,000 students or almost 1/4th of students that qualify.

If (or when) my child needs special education services in school, I want them to be available. This is why I urge you to advocate for the passage of HB 2953 and legislation that fully funds special education services. Removing the percentage cap on the amount of moneys that are distributed from the State School Fund to school districts for students eligible for special education as a child with a disability will make our school systems work for everyone.

Your consideration of my testimony is much appreciated, and thank you for your work to make a healthier, more educated Oregon.