

Submitter: Angie Browning

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

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

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

As a concerned Oregonian from Bend, I am writing to you today to advocate for the passage of

HB 2953 and legislation that fully funds 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 we work with - and the thousands of everyday Oregonians

that are part of these local groups - to move us toward an Oregon where all belong.

I cannot imagine how overwhelming and difficult my child's experience would be without the

knowledge, presence, and commitment of the education system, specialists, and various

support professionals who help me help my child and the community around him (who rely on

these funds). We would be absolutely in constant state of chronic stress which we know takes

its toll on our health and overall contribution to community and society.

I believe that every student in Oregon deserves the support they need. I believe that teachers

and staff should be equipped with the resources necessary for every child to succeed.

But because of an outdated funding formula designed over 30 years ago, Oregon is currently

leaving out over 19,000 students or almost 1/4th of the 80,000 students in its funding.

That's

even though the need has drastically increased for special education services, with diagnoses

for those with autism or anxiety and children with other needs continuing to rise.

Doing nothing means young people not getting basic support for their needs. It means more

teachers and staff burnout from not having enough resourcing. Underfunded mandates mean

local schools having to choose cuts in various programs. Doing nothing affects all of us.

We cannot just let an old law from the 1990s dictate whose children get to belong in Oregon

schools. As a parent of a child who needs these services, all of our children belong here. Our

funding should reflect this truth.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Angie Browning, MS

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