

Submitter: Mindy Pesicek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Mindy, and I am a special education teacher in Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2953, which seeks to fully fund special education services across our state. As someone who works directly with students who require additional support, I can speak from firsthand experience about the critical need for adequate funding to ensure these students receive the services they deserve.

Every day, I work with students who face significant challenges in their learning. Many of them need more than just classroom instruction; they require specialized interventions, therapies, and individualized support to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. However, due to the current underfunding of special education, my students often do not receive the full range of services they need to succeed. This gap in funding means that some students must go without crucial resources, such as additional teaching assistants, specialized equipment, or more intensive therapy options.

I want to emphasize that special education is not just an investment in individual students; it is an investment in the future of our society. When we fail to fully fund special education, we are limiting the potential of students who, with the right support, could contribute meaningfully to our workforce, communities, and economy. These students have unique talents and perspectives that can enrich our world, but we must give them the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Supporting special education is not only an educational imperative; it is a moral one. Every child, regardless of their abilities, deserves access to a quality education that helps them reach their full potential. When we provide sufficient funding for special education, we are giving students the best possible chance to overcome their challenges, learn at their own pace, and become active, engaged citizens. In turn, this benefits all of us, as these students go on to contribute to our communities, build careers, and support the social fabric of our state.

I urge you to support HB 2953 and ensure that special education in Oregon is fully funded. We cannot afford to shortchange the future of our students or our society. These children have a right to an education that meets their needs, and we have a responsibility to provide it.

Thank you for supporting the most vulnerable students.

Sincerely,

Mindy Pesicek