

Submitter: Cynthia Sischo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953
Urgent Need to Eliminate the 11% Cap on Special Education Funding (HB 2953)

Dear Representatives,
I'm reaching out as a passionate teacher who has dedicated over 20 years to ensuring that all students—regardless of ability—receive the education they deserve.

The current 11% cap on special education funding does not reflect the reality of our classrooms. In the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, where I work as an educational specialist, we take pride in our inclusive approach. Because of this, we often serve well over 11% of students requiring special education—currently 14%. Our students need more than just academic modifications. They require specialized programs for behavior, sensory regulation, personal hygiene, feeding, and social-emotional learning. They need teachers who have time to differentiate instruction, collaborate with families, and implement individualized academic and behavioral plans. But without adequate funding and staffing, we are left struggling to provide the level of support they require.

This isn't just about numbers; it's about real children. Every day, I know the difference that proper support makes—not just for students with disabilities, but for their peers, their teachers, and their families. Removing the 11% cap is a critical step in ensuring that every child in Oregon has access to an education that meets their needs and allows them to thrive.

I urge you to support HB 2953 and stand with teachers, families, and—most importantly—our students. Thank you for your leadership and for taking the time to listen to this urgent need for equitable special education funding in Oregon.

"Every child matters. If we fail our children, we are bound to fail our present, our future, faith, cultures, and civilizations as well." Kailash Satyarthi

Sincerely,
Cyndi Sischo

Ms. Cyndi Sischo
Special Education Teacher
West Linn-Wilsonville School District

