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April 4th, 2025

Good Evening Co-Chairs Lieber, Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Charan Cline, Superintendent of the Redmond School District. I am a 30 year Oregon educator who has served as superintendent in three Oregon school districts over the past 15 years. Redmond is a district of 7,200 students located in beautiful Central Oregon.

Thank you for allowing me to address you today. I would like to speak to HB 2953 that proposes to increase funding for Special Education and HB 2448 to fully fund the High Cost Disability Account.

In 2023-24, Redmond School District received \$7,955,000 in State School Funds to serve 921 students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). *(This represents the second weight for 11% of our ADMr with an IEP plus the cap waiver).* We spent \$13,365,100 providing specific Special Education services to students with an IEP (Total "MOE") leaving a gap of \$5,410,100.

In 2022-23, the last year RSD finalized for the High Cost Disability Grant, we spent \$1,994,400 on 40 high cost disability students (an average of \$49,900/student). We received \$328,800 in reimbursement from the State. This represented 40.8% of the costs in excess of \$30,000 per student but only 16.2% of the total cost to educate these students. \$470,600 of the allowable costs were unreimbursed.

In 2023-24, the number of high cost students increased by 20% to 48 students. In 2024-25, the Redmond School District has 53 high cost students – 10% more. We estimate that it will cost \$2,551,600 to serve this group of children at an average cost of \$48,143 per student. If the allowable expenses are reimbursed at the same 40.8% rate we received in 2022-23, we will receive approximately \$392,300 for the High Cost Disability Grant and \$569,300 of the allowable costs will be unreimbursed.

Since 2015-16, the number of students with an IEP that we serve is roughly the same number and percent of our total enrollment. However, due to the increased needs of the students, the number of employees serving these students has increased by 33%.

Funding gaps do not mean that students who are served by Special Education receive less service. It means that we must supplement those services from our general fund. This limits the educational opportunities and support for all students.

I understand that state funding is limited, however I urge you to help our teachers help students reach their potential. Please support HB2953 to raise the Special Education Cap and HB 2448 to fully fund the cost of serving students who qualify for high cost disability. Our students, families and staff members need your support.

Thriving Students ♦ Engaged Community ♦ Ready Graduates

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Charan Cline', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Charan Cline
Superintendent Redmond School District