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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2017
TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
FROM: Ava Bartley and Caitlin Shockley, FACT Oregon
RE: SB 263 (abbreviated school day)

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on **SB 263**, which limits a school district's ability to require students to participate in an abbreviated school day program.

FACT Oregon's mission is to empower Oregon families experiencing disability in pursuit of whole lives in their community. We do this with focused work in three interconnected areas: expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families. The outcome is families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where all communities are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

Since 2012, FACT Oregon has been Oregon's parent training and information center through a grant from the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. Through services created "by families for families," we have helped thousands of families each year navigate barriers, create a culture of inclusion, and demonstrate that a whole life is possible. We do this through in-person trainings, educational conferences, webinars, and support through our statewide helpline via phone and email.

We are here today to share a data report that we recently presented to the State Advisory Council for Special Education (SACSE) that relates to the issue SB 263 is addressing. The data speaks to requests for help we've received from families on our statewide helpline on issues related to shortened school day for their children.

Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

As you can see from the attached report, between September 1, 2016 and January 20, 2017, our helpline provided special education-related support to 468 unduplicated family members of students with disabilities. Of those interactions:

- 12.5% contacted us because their child was placed on a shortened/reduced school day related to behaviors.
- The issue of shortened school day makes up over 30% of our individual contacts with families, because the support required to help families navigate this issue is often intensive.
- 27% of these families who contacted us on this issue represent children seven years old and younger, approximately in kindergarten through second grade.

Our helpline data clearly indicates that shortened school days for behavior, and the inappropriate use of shortened school days in particular, remains a widespread problem for Oregon students with disabilities.

We hope this information will be helpful to the committee as it considers a legislative solution to this challenging issue.

Ava Bartley
Advocacy and Engagement Director
FACT Oregon

Caitlin Shockley
Education and Community Director
FACT Oregon

Attachment:
SACSE Constituent Report prepared by Caitlin Shockley, FACT Oregon, dated
January 20, 2017