

February 2, 2022

Chair Representative Karin Power
Vice-Chair Representative Lisa Reynolds
Vice-Chair Representative Jack Zika
Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood

Re: Support for HB 4032 – Informational resources relevant for children with disability

Chair Power, Vice-Chairs Reynolds and Zika, and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood--

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **HB 4032**, a bill that directs the Early Learning Division to develop and maintain informational resources relevant for children with disabilities.

FACT Oregon is the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, as well as the Oregon Department of Education's designated Parent Training Information (PTI) Center serving Oregon families as they navigate disability and special education services. We help thousands of families each year navigate raising a child experiencing disability by providing peer delivered support, training, and resources. We support and equip families, wherever they may be on their journey. The outcome of our work is families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where our schools and communities are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

We are writing to express our support of the concept in this bill and its general aim to ensure families have access to Information and relevant resources for a child with a disability. In our work, we see firsthand how families with children experiencing disability, especially those that are newly diagnosed, struggle to connect with and utilize the resources and services that are available to them. Reaching families early on their journey is critical, as we know that this early support and connection to resources can make all the difference in the trajectory of a child's life.

As Oregon's PTI, we stand ready to support the efforts of providing relevant, culturally appropriate and accessible informational resources that may be helpful for a child with a disability, as well as sharing our experience working with families that have children experiencing disability.

Thank you for considering this testimony and for working to advance concepts that support families raising children who experience disabilities.



Ava Bartley, Policy Director
FACT Oregon