



January 18, 2023

The intent of this letter is to express my support for the passage of HB 2500. As the IMESD superintendent, I serve over 35,000 students in 7 eastern Oregon counties. This bill provides essential resources to one of our most needy populations. It is deserving of your utmost consideration.

IMESD serves students, schools, and families in rural and remote-rural areas. In our communities, adults and students with Intellectual/developmental disabilities (ages 18-21) experience limited services due to extreme distances. These individuals are often excluded from access to personal support workers because the mileage required to serve them is beyond what is currently funded.

HB 2500 would provide mileage reimbursement for travel to a client's home from a caregiver's home of more than 15 miles each way. The bill would provide equal access to services for all transition-age students and adults with IDD regardless of residency. Increased funding would enrich and expand their involvement in the community and a greater sense of belonging, while opening doors to a higher quality of life.

From our perspective, our school districts' transition students, 18-21, are an underserved population, straddling between an exit from high school and entering adult life. We currently have an established infrastructure in place to meet the needs for this population, but the program is not adequately funded. HB 2500 can play a pivotal role in addressing this resource deficit.

Please join me in supporting HB 2500, which means equitable access and an enriched life for our residents experiencing Intellectual and developmental disabilities in rural/remote-rural Oregon. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Mulvihill".

Mark S. Mulvihill, Ed. D
Superintendent

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

VISION

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.