

March 14, 2023

Chair Dembrow  
Vice-Chair Weber  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

**RE: Support of SB 575 – Student Success Plan for Students with Disabilities**

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

**I am a parent of a student, Hudson Shelly, who is a first grader receiving special education services in Sitton Elementary School, in Multnomah County/Portland Public Schools (PPS), and I am writing in support of SB 575 to establish the Student Success Plan for Students with Disabilities.**

I am board member of FACT Oregon, and I am submitting my testimony as an individual and not as a board member.

Hudson was born with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC), a rare genetic disorder causing epilepsy resulting in a severe communication impairment and intellectual disability. Hudson is autistic and is a neurodivergent child who learns things differently than his neurotypical peers. Overall, Hudson has had a positive experience at his elementary school; however, if we decided to move to another area of Oregon or even within the same school district, we know he would not receive the same equitable and inclusive education as he has at his current school.

SB 575 would create targeted strategies to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities by:

- **Better preparing teachers and school staff** to serve students with disabilities through professional development and inclusionary best practices.
- **Improving data disaggregation** to reveal disproportionate outcomes at disability intersections like race, ethnicity, gender identity, location, educational placement, and disability type. This will help us target our approach to the students who are at greatest risk of being left behind.
- **Fostering better engagement between families and educators** by establishing Special Education Advisory Councils in each school district, or within education service districts serving small districts.

Please support SB 575 and the creation of a Students with Disabilities Success Plan, so we can ensure that all students have the resources they need to thrive. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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