



Oregon  
Community  
Brokerages

March 21, 2023

To: Sen Dembrow, Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
From: Katie Rose, Executive Director, Oregon Community Brokerages

Re: SB 633, creating regional centers for special education and related services

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee,

Oregon Community Brokerages is comprised of the 14 Support Service Brokerages across Oregon. Collectively, we provide case management services to more than 7,500 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) living in their own or family homes in every community throughout the state. We connect people to what matters to them and support them to make the important decisions and choices that make up a life.

We believe that deep-rooted, meaningful community connections are the key to a good life. Many of us develop those connections starting in childhood, in our schools and family social circles. Inclusive learning environments, where everyone is supported to engage and learn together and from one another are the bedrock of a healthy community.

SB 633 will funnel money away from our community public schools that are struggling so desperately to retain quality staff to support their students. It will instead use that public funding for segregated school environments. At many times in our shared history, positive intent has led us into negative unintended consequences. We see and believe the positive intent of SB 633. But segregated learning environments are not the answer. We must reluctantly oppose SB 633.

Our schools, our educators, and our children need us right now. Rather than using public education funding for segregated options, we would ask that you invest in proper support and access for kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be a part of their community schools. Learning of every kind flourishes in diverse schools where everyone is supported to learn and thrive.