



Oregon Institute of Technology

House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

HB 2675

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Kyle Chapman, Associate Professor, Oregon Institute of Technology

Good morning, Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Kyle Chapman and I'm an Associate Professor at Oregon Tech. I am here today to share my personal story as a parent whose child has profoundly benefited from the FIT Learning program at Oregon Tech and to speak in support of HB 2675, which will allow Oregon Tech to expand its impact through the proposed Owls Nest initiative.

My daughter Kendall has struggled with reading her entire life. Like many families in Klamath Falls, we found ourselves navigating a system that offered limited resources for children with learning differences. For years, we sought evaluations from the county school district but found only the option of special education, which didn't meet Kendall's specific needs. Ultimately, we had to travel to Medford for a dyslexia diagnosis. Yet, even with a diagnosis in hand, local services remained inaccessible or unaffordable. By fifth grade, Kendall was discouraged and frustrated, despite her clear talents in math and science.

Then we discovered FIT Learning and Dr. Bailey's dedicated team at Oregon Tech. The program was everything we had been searching for: local, affordable, and, most importantly, effective. Within a year of intensive and personalized instruction, Kendall's reading skills improved by multiple grade levels. Her confidence soared, and her perspective on learning transformed entirely. While dyslexia remains part of her story, she now has the tools and strategies to navigate her challenges. Today, Kendall thrives in school and approaches her education with enthusiasm and resilience.

This is why I am so excited about HB 2675 and the proposed Owls Nest initiative. Programs like FIT Learning have shown how transformative targeted, research-based interventions that align with the curriculum in Klamath Falls City Schools can be for children like Kendall. The Owls Nest will take this proven model even

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further, offering after-school care that combines academic tutoring in reading and math with social and physical development. It will not only address the academic gaps that so many children in our community face but also provide a much-needed support system for working families.

I urge you to support HB 2675 so that more children like Kendall can access the resources they need to succeed. This program has the potential to not only close educational gaps but also transform lives, just as FIT Learning did for my daughter. Thank you for your time and consideration.