

Submitter: McKay Sohlberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3053

Dear Members of House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce  
Development:

I am writing in full support of HB 3053 which would provide funding to the University of Oregon for a pilot program training graduate students who will ultimately be serving children with augmentative and alternative communication needs in a traditional overnight summer camp setting. As former director of the University of Oregon for a decade, I have witnessed the impact of providing children and their families with the necessary support and education on methods to increase communication and social connection using devices when typical speech is not an option due to numerous developmental conditions. On average, the University of Oregon graduates 30 students a year who are licensed to serve this population and this grant would allow us to effectively educate the students in evidence-backed practices for how to serve this large population who is dependent upon alternative means for communication. We have scholarship and practical expertise in this area and with funding could leverage our resources to fully train our students. By funding training of future practitioners, the impact is exponential as each of those students will go on to serve this population. I urge you to vote in support of HB 3053.

McKay Moore Sohlberg PhD CCC-SLP