



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
College of Education

Sofia Benson-Goldberg  
Assistant Professor  
Communication Disorders and Sciences Program  
University of Oregon

February 12, 2025

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my highest support for House Bill 3053, which seeks to provide funding for an overnight Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) camp through the Communication Disorders and Sciences Program at the University of Oregon. I joined the faculty as an assistant professor in Fall 2024. My research focuses on AAC and literacy, and I have extensive experience coordinating programming for Camp ALEC, an AAC camp I have been involved with since 2017.

AAC camps offer a unique and invaluable opportunity for individuals who use AAC and their families. These camps provide an immersive environment where participants can engage in intensive communication interventions, build social connections, and develop essential communication skills. The benefits of such camps are particularly significant for rural families, who often face limited access to specialized communication services.

If funded, I would collaborate with Jeanine Brush to seek future funding to ensure the camp's continuity and to conduct research on its impact on participants, including AAC users, their families, and the graduate clinicians who would help run the camp. This research would provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of AAC camps and contribute to the broader field of AAC intervention.

I urge you to support House Bill 3053 and help us provide this vital resource to our community. The funding for an overnight AAC camp will not only benefit the participants but also advance our understanding of AAC interventions and their impact on communication and literacy development.

Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Sofia Benson-Goldberg, PhD, CCC-SLP

**COMMUNICATION DISORDERS AND SCIENCES PROGRAM**

5284 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5284

T (541) 346-2480 F (541) 346-6778 TDD (541) 346-0376 <http://education.uoregon.edu/cds>

*An equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act*