



2/12/2025

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 (AAC) needs in a traditional overnight summer camp setting.

As former clinical director and therapist for a similar program in Colorado (Adam's Camp), I have participated in and personally 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 masters students each year who are licensed speech-language pathologists and who will serve this population in educational and medical settings. These innovative and foundational funds would allow us to effectively guide the transfer of the students' evidence-backed clinical skills to real-life, intensive, family-centered practice.

The funding would directly impact the evidence-backed clinical services and assessment and treatment practices for the masters students learning to serve this large population that is dependent upon alternative means for communication as well as the families and children involved. We have scholarship and practical, specialized expertise in this area. We have systems of clinical instruction and clinical intervention ready to share given avenues of financial support. The HB 2053 funding could leverage our resources to fully train speech-language pathology 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**.

Jessica L. Fanning, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Clinical Associate Professor  
Director of Stuttering and Cluttering Clinic  
University of Oregon  
Communication Disorders and Sciences Program