

Submitter: Sylvia Ravensberg  
On Behalf Of: Sacred Organizing Coalition  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making sure every child gets the education and support they deserve in Oregon.

As a 6th grade student of North Plains Elementary, I am writing to you today to advocate for the passage of HB 2953 and legislation that fully funds special education services. I am also with the Youth Solidarity Movement, an initiative of the Sacred Organizing Coalition, whose organizations and initiatives share a commitment to organizing the hundreds of community-based teams we work with - and the thousands of everyday Oregonians that are part of these local groups - to move us toward an Oregon where all belong.

I've seen peers struggle, getting angry, screaming, and once breaking a window. I've seen teachers and teacher's aides working hard to help, but they don't seem to have enough people. I believe that all children, disability or not, have a right to the resources that they need for their education and I believe that the teachers should have the resources that they need to help their students. Because of a law that was written over thirty years ago, many children are being denied access to the resources they need. Oregon is currently leaving almost one fourth of the students that qualify for special education out of its funding.

Doing nothing about this situation affects everyone, not just the students it's written for and their families. It affects the teachers, who don't have the resources to help and manage their students, and even the students who don't qualify for special education. It affects the entire school and larger community! This means that this bill will help many people, and not just the ones with disabilities.

We can't let an outdated law decide who gets a right to education. As a student of a school that would benefit from being adequately funded, and the daughter of a teacher who also needs special education to be fully funded, I belong here. Our funding should reflect this truth.

Thank you for your thoughtful time and consideration.

Sylvia Ravensberg