

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

Special Education Testimony

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 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.

There are many special education students who live lesser lives because they cannot get the resources they need. I believe that Oregon's economy should be based on equity not equality. Every student has different needs and some need more funding than others. Oregon is currently leaving out over 19,000 students or almost 1/4th of the 80,000 students qualified for special education services in its funding. The need for special education services has drastically increased with diagnoses for those with autism or anxiety and children with other needs continuing to rise.

I believe that every student deserves the chance to lead a successful and happy life. There are 19000 students who never get that chance. We should not be just standing here, we should be helping them succeed in life. There are many teachers who are trying to help special education students, but they don't have enough money to do it. This funding would change the lives of 19000 students, their teachers, and communities. Help create a state where everyone belongs.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,
-Skye Ravensberg