

Testimony in Support of HB 2448

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Committee on Education:

We strongly support HB 2448, which seeks to fully reimburse school districts through the High Cost Disability Grant for students whose needs exceed what the state school fund formula for special education can cover.

Currently, the High Cost Disability Grant provides essential support to districts serving students whose educational costs exceed \$30,000. However, due to insufficient funding, the grant only covers about 40% of these expenses for the 2024-25 school year. This leaves districts struggling to fill the gap, often at the expense of other critical services.

HB 2448 is a vital step in addressing the inequity in special education funding. The current system disproportionately impacts districts with higher numbers of students requiring intensive services, forcing them to divert resources from other essential programs. Fully funding these high-cost reimbursements will ensure that all students receive the individualized support they need without placing an unfair burden on districts.

We urge your support for HB 2448 to ensure Oregon schools have the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gwen Wilson

On behalf of the Marysville Family Club