

February 16, 2025

Representative Courtney Neron
Representative Jami Cate

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2953

Dear Representative Neron and Representative Cate:

My name is James Stobie and I am a parent who resides in Multnomah County. I am writing in support of HB 2953. Removing the percentage cap on state funds will help reduce the deficit in special education spending, allowing the programs to serve the students better.

My child is in the special education program at Whitman Elementary in Portland. After a rough early start to the year, we have seen him transform from a child who tried to leave the classroom at any available moment to a child who is engaged with reading and learning, from a child who struggled to leave the house to a child who happily gets ready for school, from a child who frequently said "I hate school" to a child who now says, "I love school because that's where I go to learn." I have seen firsthand what the intervention of caring special education teachers and support staff can do to change the trajectory of a child's education. I hope that every student in Oregon gets the same attention and care as my child has.

I hope that you vote yes on HB 2953 to remove the percentage limit on special education programs. It is vital for all Oregon families to have access to the resources they need for their children to grow and learn.

Sincerely,

James Stobie
7575 SE Harney St
Portland, OR 97206