



Mission: FACT Oregon empowers families, youth, and communities to navigate disability systems, advocating together for disability justice and policy change so that people with disabilities have what they need to thrive at home, in school, and in their communities.

February 17, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron

Vice-Chair April Dobson

Vice-Chair Emily McIntire

Members of the House Committee on Education

Support for HB 2448 – High-Cost Disability Account Funding in Special Education

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

FACT Oregon is a family-led nonprofit that supports families, youth with disabilities, and partners in holding high expectations, navigating special education and disability systems, and advocating for the supports needed to thrive at home, in school, and in the community. Since 2012, we have served as the state and federally designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) for special education.

Every child has the right to a quality education, and for students with disabilities, that right is protected under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Yet in Oregon, the chronic underfunding of special education leaves schools struggling to provide legally mandated services. As a result, students with disabilities face some of the worst educational outcomes of any student group in the state.

For students with significant support needs and their families, the situation is even more dire. Many are excluded from meaningful learning opportunities, placed with untrained or inexperienced educators who lack the tools and resources necessary to support them, or—worse—unable to attend school at all because districts are forced to make impossible choices due to funding constraints.

The High-Cost Disabilities (HCD) Account is intended to assist districts with additional expenses associated with educating students whose needs exceed the annual per-student funding allocation. Currently, school districts receive only about 40% reimbursement for these expenses, forcing them to manage limited resources and absorb additional costs.

HB 2448 makes a long-overdue investment by fully funding the High-Cost Disabilities Account. These funds are not just about closing a budget gap; they directly reimburse actual costs.

FACT Oregon joins a broad coalition of families, administrators, educators, school board members, and disability rights organizations in **full support of HB 2448**. While we may approach education funding and policy from different perspectives, we all agree that students with significant disabilities deserve an education that meets their needs without being denied services due to costs.

FACT Oregon urges this committee to pass HB 2448 with the -1 amendment and invest in Oregon's future by ensuring students with disabilities receive the education, skills, and resources necessary for meaningful post-school outcomes, including employment and independent living.

Thank you,

Christy Reese, Executive Director, FACT Oregon