

Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2682, which seeks to establish an advisory committee to study and develop recommendations to modernize adequate service levels for early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) in Oregon. As the Director of Jackson County EI/ECSE and a long-time professional in this field, I can attest to the urgent need for a re-evaluation of service levels to ensure they are both evidence-based and adequately funded.

My experience spans decades in early intervention, having worked in Washington State for many years before assuming my current leadership role in Oregon. Throughout my career, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role EI/ECSE services play in shaping the developmental trajectories of young children with disabilities and their families. However, I have also seen the persistent challenges created by a prescriptive service model that fails to support true individualization. The current framework dictates service delivery based on outdated metrics rather than the unique needs of children and families. This rigid approach does not align with best practices in early childhood special education, which emphasize flexibility, family-centered services, and individualized supports.

Moreover, despite the growing recognition of the importance of early intervention, adequate service levels have never been financially supported in a sustainable way. Funding allocations have not kept pace with the increasing demand for services, nor have they reflected the true cost of delivering high-quality, individualized intervention. In Jackson County, like in many other regions, we are constantly forced to make difficult decisions about service provision due to budget constraints.

HB 2682 is a necessary step toward addressing these longstanding issues. By establishing an advisory committee, this bill provides an opportunity to ensure that service level recommendations are rooted in evidence while also taking into consideration the realities of funding. We must move away from a system that imposes service models without the financial infrastructure to sustain them. Instead, we should work toward a model that is both effective and fiscally responsible—one that supports the developmental needs of children while recognizing the resources required to make that support a reality.

I strongly urge the Legislature to pass HB 2682 and prioritize the development of a framework that ensures every child receiving EI/ECSE services in Oregon has access to the individualized, high-quality supports they deserve. I also encourage recruiting a diverse committee, including more rural communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacy Inman  
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