

February 17, 2025
Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE:

1) HB 2448, to allow full reimbursement for students with disabilities who need more support

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Felisa Salvago-Keyes and I am a community member and a parent of a child served by SPED services at Whitman Elementary in Portland, OR. I am writing in support of HB 2448.

According to Portland Public Schools, there is a gap in funding for high-cost disability services, with only about 40% of these expenditures covered this school year.

I have seen the difference quality SPED support makes first hand. My son is in first grade at Whitman Elementary and is autistic. While he is in a mainstream class most of the time, he struggles if he is not given more one to one support. When he did not have this support, because of limited resourcing, his behavior prevented him from learning; he could not even be graded because he could not complete much work. But even beyond this, his behavior disrupted the whole class.

The school had to shuffle resources, likely away from other children, to give my son the attention he needs. But this attention has made all the difference. He is now learning more than ever and is at grade level in most of his subjects. We no longer receive calls that he has acted out physically in class. The SPED team does such valuable work and ensures the whole school community grows to their potential. But I know they make tradeoffs in how they support SPED students. They deserve adequate funding.

Please **vote to support HB 2448**. Thank you very much for your consideration and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Felisa Salvago-Keyes
Portland, OR
felisa.sk@gmail.com