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House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject:

### **Statement in Support of HB 2448**

Chair Representative Courtney Neron, Vice-Chair Representative April Dobson, Vice-Chair Representative Emily McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of **HB 2448**, which reinforces our commitment to an equitable and accessible Oregon public education system for each student. As a school board member serving my local community in Corvallis and the Immediate Past President of the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA), I have learned about the ongoing challenges school districts face in addressing evolving and complex student needs, particularly in special education services.

From our district's perspective, **special education funding—especially high-cost disability funding—does not adequately reflect current needs**. When the high-cost mechanism was first developed, a single, one-to-one adult was an uncommon staffing model, and additional funds were offered to address that singular high-need scenario. Today, however, many students require **multi-disciplinary teams** that might include a one-to-one nurse, an educational assistant, sign language interpreters, and individualized transportation. This level of support far exceeds the coverage provided by the existing high-cost formula.

Additionally, **best practices no longer favor assigning a single adult to a student for the entire day**. Instead, multiple adults may rotate among several students, ensuring each student receives targeted, high-quality support while promoting independence and flexibility. However, this model also drives costs substantially higher. The high-cost funding formula needs greater **appropriation of funds** and **greater flexibility** to accommodate multiple service providers across multiple students. Without increasing funding levels that this bill proposes and an updated model that I hope to see being explored in the future, districts risk financial strain that can ultimately impact the quality of services offered to all students.

By supporting **HB 2448**, we take a step toward addressing these funding gaps and recognizing the changing demands of special education. We must **remove barriers** to local governance and provide **sufficient, flexible resources** that empower districts to serve students effectively.

I respectfully urge your support for **HB 2448** and thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**Sincerely,**

Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, Ph.D.

Immediate Past President, Oregon School Boards Association

Director - Pacific Region, National School Board Association (NSBA) Board of Directors

Director - position #1, Corvallis Board of Education

This testimony was developed using an AI-based writing tool, which assisted in drafting and refining the content based on my input to ensure clarity and completeness.