

HB 2953

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson, and McIntire, and members of the House Education committee.

For the record, my name is Jorge Sanchez Bautista. I am a student in the Portland Public School district, as well as one of the two student advisors to the Oregon State Board of Education.

Before I go into my testimony, I want to thank all the educators, parents, and students that are down there in the Capitol speaking on behalf of Oregon students.

For the past three decades, our education system has only gotten worse. Especially those with disabilities, those in poverty, and those who face other challenges. Education has been one of the issues that has gone through many challenges and conflicts, yet hasn't had any significant improvement other than the Student Success Act which was passed in 2019. The Student Success Act has invested over \$2 billion dollars, but we know that isn't enough and hasn't resolved the funding of education in Oregon. Me and many other students know this. This landmark legislation was passed almost 5 years ago and yet we continue to see school districts like mine having to decide whether to fund one thing or another.

I ask that you make a similar, huge accomplishment like the Legislature did with the Student Success Act in 2019 with this same piece of legislation that everyone in that room is there to support; to remove the 11% cap. House Bill 2953 brings both parties together to make this a bi-partisan effort for Oregon students with disabilities. Please support the change of fully funding our schools. Thank you.