

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

Statement in 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,

I am writing in strong support of HB 2448 with the -1 amendment, which reinforces our commitment to an equitable and accessible Oregon public education system for each student and helps to provide adequate funding for our highest need students. As a retired Portland Public Schools special education teacher, I understand well the challenges faced by classroom teachers, special education teachers, school administrators and school districts in providing special education services for students with serious and impactful educational and social needs, especially highlighted in these years since the Covid pandemic.

From my own professional experience today's special education funding—especially high-cost disability funding—does not adequately meet the needs of students and families. Today, many of our most involved and complex students require multi-disciplinary teams that use a host of professionals to meet their language, medical, occupational, feeding, personal needs and more. This level of support far exceeds the coverage provided by our existing high-cost formula. In fact, current funding for students with the most significant special education needs only covers about 40% of expenditures.

We ask that you recognize the changing demands of special education and the financial impact on our classrooms, schools and school districts as we seek to serve all students safely and effectively. Additional funding is needed now to provide critical services to our students today.

I most sincerely ask for your support for HB 2448 with the -1 amendment.

Thank you,

Dave Albertine

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