

Submitter: Laura Bertram

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

I strongly support HB 2953, a crucial piece of legislation that removes the outdated 11% cap on state funding for special education (SPED) students and ensures that Oregon schools receive the necessary resources to support all students with disabilities.

For over 30 years, the funding cap has denied critical support to thousands of students, forcing schools to stretch limited budgets and leaving many children without the services they need to succeed. Currently, nearly 15% of Oregon students—and 17% of Portland Public Schools students—require special education services, yet funding is only provided for up to 11%. This gap disproportionately impacts students with disabilities, including those with Autism, Dyslexia, and other physical, developmental, and learning challenges.

By lifting the cap, HB 2953 ensures that schools can adequately meet the needs of all SPED students, rather than picking and choosing who receives essential services. This bill is a necessary step toward equity in education, providing the funding and support that every student deserves. I urge the Legislature to pass HB 2953 and invest in a future where all Oregon students, regardless of ability, have access to a high-quality education.