

Submitter: Theodore Hilton Walker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

I am a speech-language pathologist in an elementary school in southern Oregon. I work across the spectrum of special education settings serving students with communication needs. Within special education we have students with a range of impacts that affect their academic, social, behavioral and ability to freely communicate with teachers and peers. In addition, medical and developmental impacts require significant adult assistance and instruction. I have worked in many different school districts, as well as in early childhood education settings. They are invariably understaffed, with high turnover, and a lack of adequate support. The cap on educational spending for special education assumes that the approximately 10% of students in special education programs only require 10% of state funding support. These are our most vulnerable and most in need students who we are continually marginalized with inadequate staff and resource support. Please STOP the handcuffing of school administrators that is detrimental to our students and remove the percentage cap. Thank you