

Submitter: Dawn Watson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2682

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2682
Presented to the House Education Committee
February 17, 2025

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Dawn Watson. I have served as a school board member for Phoenix-Talent School District for 12 years and am currently the Vice President of the OSBA Board of Directors. I am here to strongly support House Bill 2682.

Early intervention is vital for the success of students with disabilities. My son, Keenan, began early intervention at age 3. Those two years provided us with the time to access crucial supports and tools, not just for Keenan but for our entire family. Having an occupational therapist assist with getting him to eat, selecting clothes he could comfortably wear, and learning techniques to help him calm down was invaluable. We were able to discover what worked for him and share those insights with his Kindergarten teacher. However, we encountered challenges such as limited weekly hours, lack of inclusion opportunities, and insufficient instructional time which could have better prepared him for kindergarten.

It's imperative that we invest in providing children and their families with the best and most up-to-date early intervention services possible. House Bill 2682 will establish an advisory committee to ensure these programs deliver effective and current supports, setting students up for long-term success.

Please pass House Bill 2682 to prioritize early intervention for Oregon's children.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dawn Watson

School Board Member, Phoenix-Talent School District

Vice President, OSBA Board of Directors