

Submitter:

Katie Iverson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2953

Chair Neron and members of the House Committee on Education,

I serve as a school board director for Canby School District. The school district where my children attend and where I graduated from as well. I am also a former educator, teaching for 10 years in a neighboring district.

As a classroom teacher I knew my students. For students on an IEP or 504 plan, it was especially important that I knew the details of those plans. Understanding the accommodations and supports to ensure that they could be successful in middle school science. I worked on teams with other teachers and parents to make sure that those plans were continually updated and used to meet the needs of my students.

Now as a school board director, I am able to support students in a different way. Schools in Canby are the heart of our community. We are dedicated to the growth for all students. Remembering that all truly does mean ALL. In public education EVERY learner deserves the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. Unfortunately, not providing adequate funding for schools makes that increasingly more challenging.

The cap at 11% has not changed in over 30 years, but the needs of our students have. This year in Canby we have over 4100 students and more than 13% are part of our special education program. Increasing the cap and the State School Fund to support that increase would mean an additional \$1 million funding for those children. Without it, it becomes part of the \$6 million budget short fall that we currently face in Canby. We risk losing educators and support staff that are already stretched thin. I urge legislators to support HB 2953. Please remember what this represents. The quality of education that our children receive will impact their future and the future of Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.