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Chair Courtney Neron

Vice-Chair April Dobson

Vice-Chair Emily McIntire

Members of the House Committee on Education

Support for HB 2448 – Fully Funding the High-Cost Disabilities Account

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

The **Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN)** serves as **Oregon's federally funded Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC)**, working alongside families, schools, and communities to ensure children with disabilities receive the education and services they need. As a nonprofit supporting families in 8 rural counties of Oregon, we see firsthand the struggles of school districts trying to meet the complex needs of students with disabilities while operating under severe funding constraints.

For many families in rural communities, accessing special education services is an uphill battle. Small districts often lack specialized staff and must stretch limited resources to provide individualized supports. The **High-Cost Disabilities (HCD) Account** was established to help districts cover the extraordinary costs of educating students with significant disabilities, yet it currently falls far short—leaving schools to absorb expenses they cannot afford.

The impact of this shortfall is deeply felt in rural Oregon. Many students miss out on necessary services, receive support from undertrained staff, or are even encouraged to seek education outside their home district due to financial limitations. This creates an inequitable system where a child's access to education is determined not by their rights under **the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** but by their zip code and their district's financial situation.

HB 2448 seeks to correct this imbalance by **fully funding the High-Cost Disabilities Account**, ensuring that all Oregon students—regardless of the district they attend—receive the education and supports they need. This is more than just an accounting fix; it is an investment in the future of students with disabilities, allowing them to gain the skills necessary for meaningful employment, independent living, and full community participation.

We stand in strong support of **HB 2448 with the -1 amendment** and urge the committee to recognize the vital role this funding plays, especially for Oregon's rural communities. Ensuring that students with significant disabilities are not left behind is not only a legal obligation but a moral imperative.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Oregon's students.

Sincerely,

Dianna J. Hansen

Dianna J. Hansen, Executive Director & Co-Founder of CODSN