

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

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making sure every child gets the education and support they deserve in Oregon.

As a physical therapist working with special ed kiddos in Early Intervention in Bend, I am writing to advocate for **the passage of HB 2953** and legislation that fully funds special education services.

Just today we had an IFSP meeting for a 3 year old severely impacted that I have been seeing weekly since she was 2 months old. She has a diagnosis of bilateral perisylvian syndrome and polymicrogyria. The family was so appreciative of our services and we were emotional knowing that now that she is transitioning to preschool (ECSE) we wouldn't be working together. The stoic dad gave me a hug and said "I love you!"

I believe that every student in Oregon deserves the support they need. I believe that teachers and staff should be equipped with the resources necessary for every child to succeed.

But because of an outdated funding formula designed over 30 years ago, Oregon is currently leaving out over 19,000 students or almost 1/4th of the 80,000 students in its funding. That's even though the need has drastically increased for special education services, with diagnoses for those with autism or anxiety and children with other needs continuing to rise.

Doing nothing means young people not getting basic support for their needs. It means more teachers and staff burnout from not having enough resourcing. Underfunded mandates mean local schools having to choose cuts in various programs. Doing nothing affects all of us.

We cannot just let an old law from the 1990s dictate whose children get to belong in Oregon schools. **WHAT WE DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE** and our caseloads have gone up consistently. We need more funding.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

**Bev Tyler, MPT**

**Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education**

**Deschutes County**