

February 19, 2025

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 concerned Oregonian from Bend, I am writing to you today to advocate for the passage of HB 2953 and legislation that fully funds special education services. 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But because of an outdated funding formula designed over 30 years ago, Oregon is currently leaving out over 19,000 students or almost 1/4th of the 80,000 students in its funding.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. As a community member who knows the importance of supporting our children in my community, all of our children belong here. Our funding should reflect this truth.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

*Tami Corbin*

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Regional Evaluation Team  
High Desert ESD