

COURTNEY NERON  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Testimony in Support of [HB 2953-3](#)

February 17, 2025

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

Thank you for reading my testimony on HB 2953 with the -3 amendment. This bill removes the increasingly unjustifiable, arbitrary, and inequitable 11% cap on special education funding that has plagued our distribution for far too long.

Since 1991, Oregon's school funding model has arbitrarily told districts that if more than 11% of their student body is experiencing disability and needing an Individualized Education Plan, that there will be no further funding to support those needs. This structure ignores a district's actual special education needs, disincentivises accurate identification beyond the 11% cap, and is unique among all other components of the ADMw formula. As challenging behaviors, needs for support, and ability to accurately assess special needs all increase, our cap on accurate and equitable distribution of the funds contains this structural barrier that then forces school districts to carve funding out of their general fund to ensure delivery of services.

Currently, Oregon school districts average 15% of students requiring special education services. Very few are at the 11% rate and yet some districts are much higher. This cap forces schools to stretch limited resources, where some students do not receive the full support they require. HB 2953 eliminates this outdated restriction, ensuring that districts receive the funding according to the needs of the children they serve.

**The -3 amendment further strengthens this effort by requiring transparent reporting on special education expenditures. This accountability ensures resources are used effectively and equitably, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and serving the students who need these services most.**

Passing HB 2953-3 with the additive funding needed to make the change is a critical step toward a fairer, more functional education system—one that truly meets each and every student where they are. I urge your support for HB 2953 with the -3 amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Representative Courtney Neron | House District 26: King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Wilsonville  
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