

Submitter: Jennifer Constantine
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

I am writing strongly in SUPPORT of removing the cap from Special Ed funding for Oregon. I am a Reading Specialist, with advanced degrees in both Literacy and Dyslexia with 25 years of experience in the classroom and private practice. As this bill correctly states, we are in an education emergency. This is a nationwide problem in general, and being felt more acutely in Oregon judging by recently published test scores. Put simply, we are not able to fully and adequately educate our students.

Since moving to Oregon in 2021, I have spent some time substitute teaching for local schools. I have been impressed with the teachers--smart, caring, hard-working, and we have to recognize, nearly selfless to give as much of themselves as they do with so little recompense. In addition, the schools seem well run, the support staff impressive. But no amount of smarts and caring can compensate for being underfunded.

Out of interest, I read the comments posted here in opposition to this bill. At the time of my writing, there are seven. Of those, three of them actually wrote in SUPPORT of the bill, and perhaps clicked oppose by mistake.

One commenter, who actually is opposed, says that special education numbers might be overinflated. This is patently false and he clearly does not work with children or in schools. If anything, we have UNDER identified students who need some kind of extra support.

We cannot continue to get this wrong. Please fully fund Special Education, and give our kids the chance they need.