

Submitter: Maggie McGill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

As a school psychologist serving 4J Eugene schools, I see first hand the impact funding has on our students with disabilities. Students with disabilities have every right to access their education as their typically-developing peers, and Oregon has a duty to provide the necessary funding for these students. Current research indicates most students with disabilities do best in the general education classroom with their peers - in keeping with the least restrictive environment. However, this does not mean that we should not provide support to these students and support to their general education teachers in the classroom. This support can look like increased collaboration with special education teachers or increased presence of educational assistants in the classroom setting. It may also look like differentiated supplies and materials. In an ever-changing world, we need to be able to keep up with the needs of our students, and placing a cap on special education funding does not allow us to do this. I have seen the impacts of decreased staffing and limited supplies. These student deserve better. We are all equal. None of us are free until all of us are free. Providing funding for our most vulnerable population shows what's important to Oregon - supporting ALL people, especially those who can't stand up for themselves. Please vote YES to HB 2953 to eliminate the cap on special education funding and support ALL students!