

Submitter: Alexandra Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

I am writing to voice my strong support for HB 2953.

As districts across the state face large budget cuts, this bill could make an immediate difference and ease budget shortfalls. This bill call for elimination of the 11% special education cap. Currently Oregon only funds up to 11% of students who qualify for special education services despite many districts including West Linn-Wilsonville having closer to 15% of students who qualify for these services . This creates annual funding gaps of millions of dollars for school districts across the state. Districts are then required to use general funds to cover mandated special education services impacting programs for all students. Only 7 states in our nation cap special education funding and Oregon has the lowest cap of all these states.

I urge you to support HB 2953 to ensure all students in Oregon receive the services and education they are legally entitled to and deserve. Thank you for your consideration.