

Submitter: Maegan Vidal

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

House Revenue Committee Testimony

House Bill 2953

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Nathanson and members of the House Revenue Committee, my name is Maegan Vidal.

I am a director on the West Linn-Wilsonville School Board and live in Wilsonville. I am a proud student of Oregon's public schools and am here in support of House Bill 2953.

From their first day of kindergarten to their high school graduation, students enrolled in special education in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District are in general education classrooms, making our inclusive district unique in Oregon. We do not relegate students with special education needs to separate buildings or rooms, they belong in our schools and are important members of our community.

14 percent of our students in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District are enrolled in special education. The difference from the current 11% funding level to raising the cap to 14% equates to \$2.25 Million dollars.

We are a medium sized school district facing a \$15 million dollar budget shortfall in the 2025-2026 school year because of rising costs and a significant decrease in enrollment.

This week we notified teachers impacted by our district's budget shortfall, breaking the hearts of our students, our staff, and our community.

The \$2.25 Million dollars funded by raising the special education cap will hire 17 teachers in our district and educate students with the most need. I urge you to raise this antiquated cap by supporting House Bill 2953.

Thank you.