

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



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

March 13, 2025

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony in support of HB 2953, a bill to **remove** the increasingly unjustifiable, arbitrary, and **inequitable 11% cap on special education** funding that has plagued our distribution formula for far too long.

Since 1991, Oregon's school funding model has arbitrarily told districts that if more than 11% of their student body experiences disability and needs Individualized Education Plans, that there will not be adequate 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. **HB 2953 eliminates this outdated restriction, ensuring that districts receive the funding according to the needs of the children they serve.**

The policy is further strengthened by **requiring transparent reporting on special education expenditures.** This ensures accountability for resources, and increases transparency as to how these resources are used to serve the students they are intended for.

As our House Revenue Committee, you are a school funding committee and it is my hope that you allow this bill to move to our Ways and Means process where they can continue to consider additive funding needed to make the necessary changes. This committee has the power to pause this work, or **grant this critical step toward a fairer, more functional education system—one that truly meets each and every student where they are.** I am open to your partnership to solve this challenge and I urge your support for HB 2953.

Sincerely,