

Submitter: Amanda Wallace  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

High Desert Education Service District  
March 13, 2025

Senator Anthony Broadman  
Senator  
900 Court St. NE, S-423, Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Regional Inclusive Services in K-12  
Special Education

Dear Mr. Broadman,

I am writing to urge your support for increased funding for Regional Inclusive Services for K-12 Special Education in the upcoming budget. As the Superintendent of the High Desert Education Service District (HDESD), I work closely with our regional school districts to provide essential services for students with disabilities. However, as districts across Central Oregon face significant budget reductions, the ability to provide Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for our most vulnerable students is increasingly at risk.

Regional Inclusive Services play a critical role in ensuring that students with disabilities receive the specialized support they need to thrive. These services provide direct support to school districts through expert consultation, professional development, assistive technology, behavioral and mental health support, and other resources essential for students' success. Yet, as districts are forced to cut and slash budgets, they are less able to meet the growing demand for special education services. Without additional funding, students with disabilities will face significant barriers to receiving the education they are legally and ethically entitled to.

The financial constraints on school districts mean they must rely more heavily on Regional Inclusive Services to fill critical gaps. Without increased investment from the state, our ability to serve students effectively will be severely impacted. By prioritizing funding for Regional Inclusive Services, you will help ensure that every student—regardless of ability—has access to the education and support they need to succeed. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to ensuring all students receive a high-quality education. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and provide any additional information that would be helpful as you consider this urgent need.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your support in ensuring

that Oregon upholds its commitment to serving all students, including those with disabilities.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Wallace, MS SLP