

Dear Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Education,

I wanted to write in support of SB 5515. I have a blind stepdaughter that receives instruction through Regional Inclusive Services. I have firsthand witnessed the expertise of their educators and the amount of progress my stepdaughter has made through their instruction. During the Covid pandemic, my blind stepdaughter had to receive all her schooling through a laptop computer, I had to help her with everything because she couldn't operate zoom. Without Regional Inclusive Services my stepdaughter would have had a completely wasted year of education. It was very hard for teachers to make their classes inclusive through zoom calls. Her TVI (teacher of the visually impaired) worked so hard to help my stepdaughter that she made lots of progress on her braille and still learned how to orient the Middle School she would go to (for the first time) after the pandemic had ended. She learned the layout of the school all through the instruction and expertise of her TVI. Everyone worked so hard to make sure that my disabled child had everything she needed, and the Regional Inclusive Services went above and beyond for my child.

I know that they are needing much more funding than they currently receive – please support SB 5515 to help rectify this and guarantee that all disabled children get the education and special instruction they deserve.

Thank you for your time,
Sean Bailey, Wasco County Planner