



# COLUMBIA REGIONAL INCLUSIVE SERVICES

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3/19/2025

Dear Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Education,

My name is Ky Hansen, and I am a Teacher for the Blind and Low Vision (TBLV) and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) with Columbia Regional Inclusive Services. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 5515 and to urge the Oregon Legislature to fully fund Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and Regional Inclusive Services in Oregon.

Currently, the funding allocated for special education services does not meet the growing needs of our students. My colleagues and I work tirelessly to provide specially designed instruction (SDI), accommodations, and essential supports to students who are blind and low vision. We train school staff, adapt educational materials, and provide direct instruction to help our students access their education. However, we are stretched thin. Our caseloads are large, and we serve hundreds of schools across multiple counties, including rural and hard-to-reach areas where the shortage of specialized teachers and resources is felt most acutely.

Students with visual impairments require specialized equipment, assistive technology, and adapted materials to engage with the curriculum. Unfortunately, due to inadequate funding, these resources are often delayed, insufficient, or entirely unavailable.

Additionally, many students would benefit from one-on-one support to develop critical skills, but the current funding shortfalls make this impossible.

To address these urgent needs, I urge the Legislature to:

- Adequately fund special education for children under 5 (EI/ECSE) at **\$432.8 million**.
- Increase the special education cap in the State School Fund formula from **11% to 15%**.
- Provide **100% reimbursement** to school districts for high-cost disabilities.
- Adequately fund Regional Inclusive Services at **\$122.4 million**.

These investments are essential to ensuring that children with disabilities receive the education and support they need to thrive. Without them, we are failing not only our students and their families but also the dedicated educators who work tirelessly to support them.

I respectfully urge you to prioritize funding for these critical services. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Oregon's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ky Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ky Hansen, MS.Ed., TBLV, COMS

Itinerant Teacher for the Blind and Low Vision & Certified Orientation & Mobility  
Specialist

Columbia Regional Inclusive Services