

Submitter: Sarah Buckmaster

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means and Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Date: March 26, 2025

Measure: SB 5515

Joint Committee On Ways and Means and Subcommittee on Education,

My name is Sarah Buckmaster, and I am a parent of three children in Portland public schools. I am testifying in support of SB 5515 because it funds essential education services, including special education and early intervention programs. However, I strongly urge the Legislature to increase the proposed funding to meet the real needs of Oregon's students.

Special education and early intervention programs remain critically underfunded. Regional Inclusive Services needs an additional \$50 million to provide adequate services to 15,000 K-12 students with disabilities. Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education requires \$24 million more just to meet basic service levels. Oregon currently provides only one-third of the special education funding that Washington state does.

Without full funding, vulnerable students will continue to lack critical resources. Special education programs will remain underfunded, missing crucial learning windows for early intervention. Oregon will fall further behind in providing equitable education for all students.

I urge the Legislature to fully fund Regional Inclusive Services at \$122.4 million and ensure Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education receives the full \$432.8 million necessary to give children the support they need.

Oregon's most vulnerable students deserve better. I appreciate your time and consideration and urge you to provide full funding for these critical programs.

Sincerely,

Sarah Buckmaster

PPS Parent, and Community Advocate

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