

March 24, 2025

RE: Regional Inclusive Services Funding SB 5515

Dear Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Education:

My name is Diana Kincaid and I am an early intervention teacher of the Deaf and hard of hearing who resides in Portland. I serve children from birth to five who are deaf and hard of hearing.

My request is to increase the Statewide budget for Regional Inclusive Services by \$50 million to \$122 million, which is the amount needed to adequately fund Regional Inclusive Services.

I have worked with children who are deaf and hard of hearing for over 20 years, and I understand the importance of providing early intervention services to children and families beginning in the first months of life. This focused support empowers parents to teach their children language, either spoken language or American Sign Language, so that children with hearing loss can reach their full potential.

I urge you to fully fund Regional Inclusive Services by increasing the funding by \$50 million to \$122 million.

Sincerely,
Diana Kincaid
Portland, Oregon