



NORTHWEST ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

March 27, 2025

Co-Chairs Janeen Sollman and Ricki Ruiz
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education

RE: **SB 5515**
Position: **Support**

Dear Chair Sollman, Chair Ruiz, and members of the subcommittee,

I write to you today on behalf of the Northwest Academy of Audiology (NWAA) to call on you to fully fund Regional Inclusive Services and (RIS) and early intervention (EI) as part of SB 5515. NWAA represents over 150 audiologists and doctor of audiology students in Oregon and Washington and advocates for patients across the region. Audiologists are key members of RIS and EI teams and see the impact of the under-funding of these programs that has occurred for years.

Children with hearing loss across the state rely on RIS and EI programs to ensure they are able to learn, socialize, and prosper at the same level as their normally hearing peers. The demand for these services has grown while funding per child has decreased with every biennium budget. Our children deserve an equal opportunity to succeed and we call on the committee to make that happen through investment in these programs.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of the inclusion of this vitally important funding in SB 5515. We hope you will join NWAA in supporting this cause and seeing every Oregon child have a chance at a happy and successful life. Please do not hesitate to reach out if NWAA can be of any assistance as this bill progresses

Thank you,

Bryan Greenaway, Au.D.
Legislation and Policy Chair
Northwest Academy of Audiology