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April 2nd, 2025

HB 3059

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Charan Cline, Superintendent of the Redmond School District. I am a 30 year Oregon educator who has served as superintendent in three Oregon school districts over the past 15 years. Redmond is a district of 7,200 students located in beautiful Central Oregon.

In 2022-23, the last year RSD finalized for the High Cost Disability Grant, we spent \$1,994,400 on 40 high cost disability students (an average of \$49,900/student). We received \$328,800 in reimbursement from the State. This represented 40.8% of the costs in excess of \$30,000 per student but only 16.2% of the total cost to educate these students. \$470,600 of the allowable costs were unreimbursed.

In 2023-24, the number of high cost students increased by 20% to 48 students. In 2024-25, the number of high cost students is 53. We estimate that it will cost 2.4 million to serve this group of children. Since 2015-16, the number of students with an IEP that we serve is roughly the same number and percent of our total enrollment. However, the number of employees serving these students has increased by 33%.

When residential facilities began to open up in our region, they concentrated students with significant needs in our school district. The Central Oregon region has few community services to access and limited outside agencies to assist schools with students that have profound needs for mental health or disability services.

When students are placed in a district that struggles to access the services that are needed to care for them, students are not educated well and staff become overwhelmed and are sometimes injured. As a district we are providing all of the training and personal protective gear possible for our staff, but in order to meet the needs of our students, we need the Human Services System and the K-12 Education System to work more collaboratively.

To quote one of our Special Education Coaches:

"Staff are being pulled away from other students and students are then more likely not to receive as meaningful education as they are entitled to receive."

Thriving Students ♦ Engaged Community ♦ Ready Graduates

These students require a much higher level of supervision and care than we are able to provide at our current budget levels, and the need continues to rise. Funds are reallocated for these students, causing the other students in the district to suffer from the attention and education they deserve.”

I urge you to support HB 3059. As a state community, we need to coordinate the care of our most vulnerable students. It is important that we use the available resources from partnering agencies to create the best possible outcomes for our children. Studying the issue in detail may allow solutions to emerge. Our systems of care need to be designed so that the various agencies that serve children can work together to maximize their impact.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Charan Cline', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Charan Cline

Superintendent Redmond School District