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Haley Percell

To: House Committee on Revenue
From: Efren Zamudio, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 4079
Date: February 20, 2024

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association and our locally elected volunteer school board members, I am writing to express our support for HB 4079 with adequate funding.

The funding formula for the State School Fund has mostly stayed the same since its creation. Oregon, our school system, and our students have greatly changed since the 1990s when that formula was established. In our view, the 11 percent cap on money distributed from the State School Fund to districts for students eligible for special education as children with disabilities was an arbitrary number that should have been lifted long ago.

We should not be depriving districts of the critical resources to serve and support our students with disabilities. That is what we are doing with the current 11 percent cap. We should be moving in a direction where the funded weights in the State School Fund reflect the actual needs of the students in that district; we can do that by lifting the cap.

However, we also deeply understand that any changes to the State School Funding must come with adequate funding. Any changes to the formula without added funding would create winners and losers and potentially harm students.

OSBA urges your support for HB 4079 with adequate funding. Lifting the 11 percent cap is a critical step to providing the resources necessary to better meet the needs of our students with disabilities.