



**Mission:** Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

March 27, 2023

Chair Courtney Neron  
Vice-Chair Zach Hudson  
Vice-Chair Boomer Wright  
Members of the House Education Committee

**RE: HB 2895 – Special Education Cap**

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, and members of the House Education Committee,

FACT Oregon is a family-led nonprofit that works toward a future where communities are accessible, inclusive, and empower the self-determination of people with disabilities. We support families, youth with disabilities, and partners to hold high expectations, navigate special education and disability systems and advocate for the supports needed to thrive at home, in school, and in community. **Since 2012, we have served as the state and federally designated Parent Training and Information Center [PTI] for special education.**

FACT Oregon appreciates HB 2895 in addressing the need to review the State School Fund cap for students receiving special education services in Oregon. In its role as the PTI, FACT Oregon spends a great deal of time supporting families navigating the special education system and we often hear that school districts lack resources to support students. We know that school districts are supporting well about the 11% of students with disabilities they receive funding for and know that this gap in funding, coupled with the failure of the Federal government to fulfill its promise to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), presents significant challenges to school districts across the state as they attempt to meet their responsibility under IDEA to provide students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment when they do not have adequate resources. We believe it is time that we address this issue, whether with a removal of the cap all together or an adjustment that would increase it to a more reasonable 14-15%.

We urge your support of HB 2895 so that the additional investment the legislature makes in students eligible for special education through the State School Fund more closely matches the actual population of students with disabilities in most school districts across the state.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Christy Reese, Executive Director

FACT Oregon