

Submitter: Lisa Lyon
On Behalf Of: Decoding Dyslexia Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2895

Decoding Dyslexia Oregon wholeheartedly urges your support of HB2895. Every day we hear from families who are trying to access SPED services only to be told there is no capacity to serve their students. There are five types of families we serve:

1. Families who use their financial privilege to purchase private tutoring services because public schools cannot help their learners. This is if they are lucky enough to find a tutor who has availability. Our resource directory is 16 pages long, yet parents are still struggling to find private tutors. Private tutoring is thriving because public schools are not funded adequately to provide SPED services.
2. Families who cannot afford private tutoring so they pull their students to HOMESCHOOL.
3. Families who have NEITHER the financial means for private tutoring NOR the ability to homeschool.
4. Families who are trying to get appropriate services for their learners by working within the current SPED system. SPED educators, psychologists, SLPs, OTs, and Literacy Interventionists are not able to provide recommended interventions due to limitations of capacity. With more than 50% of Oregon's learners NOT proficient in reading, underfunded SPED teams CANNOT possibly serve all the learners that need individualized attention. (Many of these struggling readers are not those with dyslexia but are curriculum casualties; a problem created in part by ineffective teacher preparation the use of ineffective curricula).
5. Families who use their financial privilege and pull their students from public schools to attend private schools.

It's time for Oregon to make investments needed to ensure ALL students in our public schools learn to read. Removing the cap on special ed funding moves us closer to that goal. Please vote in support of HB 2895.