

Physical Education for All Kids (PEAK) The Save PE Coalition

Testimony to Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee
Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
February 21, 2013

HB 2136

By: Mary Lou Hennrich
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CO-Chair PE for All Kids Coalition (PEAK)



Co-chairs Senator Bates and Representative Nathanson, members of the Committee:

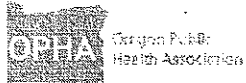


The Community's Partner for Better Health

My name is Mary Lou Hennrich, and I live at 7206 SE Salmon St., Portland, OR. I am the Executive Director of the *Oregon Public Health Institute* and am here today representing a broad Coalition of health, business, education, parents and sports organizations--the *PE for All Kids Coalition (PEAK)*.



I am here today supporting the TMSA Campaign request that the \$120 million settlement funds for the 2013-15 biennium be allocated to health and wellness efforts, including a \$30 million investment in taking the first major step vital to Oregon's children's physical and mental wellbeing by increasing K-8th grade students' access to the legislatively mandated weekly Physical Education minutes.



In my limited time this afternoon, I am not going to recount the reasons why PE is a core curricular subject that has ever mounting evidence of effectiveness in improving not only the health and physical well being of students, but also their mental, social well-being and their academic performance and success. I am glad to provide the most recent educational and scientific research findings upon your request. It was this information that persuaded you and your colleagues to pass HB 3141 in 2007, which requires that ALL Oregon students, grades K-8 must have a minimum of 150/225 minutes of curricular PE each week in all grades, K-8 in Oregon public schools by January 1, 2017.



The ten years between the law's passage in 2007 and required full implementation in 2017 was to allow time to develop a funding strategy that is a partnership between local school districts and state support.



In 2007, the state did not even collect data on the amount of PE (minutes) being offered in Oregon's 198 local districts, so HB 3141 set a requirement for the state to collect and report this information



beginning with the 2008 academic year. The baseline and subsequent reports show that on average, **less than half these amount of minutes are being provided to Oregon's students and in fact the number of minutes in many districts has DECREASED in the past several years, rather than moving forward to full implementation of the legislatively mandated number of minutes/week.**

No one knows better than you, the budget realities for education at the local and state levels over these past biennia and many vital educational programs and classes have been cut or diluted during these difficult years. In fact, the staff to review and report and provide technical assistance to local districts regarding PE has been drastically cut and we have not seen the latest year's data report.

So...this brings us to the budget issue at hand—the **\$120 million TMSA settlement funds that are available for allocation in this biennium's budget.**

As a member of the TMSA Campaign, we are supportive of the recommended “package” of funding as a balanced and effective approach to **“reduce tobacco use with a focus in Oregon's children.”** Quality PE, provided to students daily with the minimum weekly minute requirement has been proven to improve children's physical, mental and emotional well being and health resilience—making them less likely to partake in risky behaviors such as starting tobacco use with it's subsequent addiction.

The PEAK Coalition also believes use of the \$30million TMSA funds to allow local districts to hire more highly qualified and effective PE teachers could be used as an incentive for local districts to invest local and other possible increased education funds as have been recommended in the Governor's budget and may be increased by the legislature this session . This would truly cut across “silo's” between health and education—something that PEAK and the Health Kids Learn Better Coalition strongly recommend.

PEAK Coalition members stand ready to assist you in any way that you might request. Thank you for your diligent work on behalf of Oregonians, especially our children.