

HB 4077
House Education Committee
Testimony of Betty Reynolds, Ph.D.
February 10, 2014

Good afternoon Chair Gelser and members of the House Education Committee. I'm Betty Reynolds, and am speaking as a member Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Board of Directors. I also serve on the West Linn Wilsonville School Board.

As elected officials, school board members are a direct link to their communities and are responsible for implementing state education policy. For example, achievement compacts are agreements between school boards and the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), but school boards don't have a seat at the table in designing those agreements.

Oregon is a diverse state economically and geographically, and education solutions and needs vary greatly by district. What's effective for the Klamath County School Board, with 80 school buses covering about 2 million miles a year, might not work for the Parkrose School Board, with nearly 11,000 students and 67 languages spoken. School Boards need to hear and be heard regarding education policy so that the solutions are as effective as possible in helping students achieve.

The OSBA has been very supportive of 40/40/20 goals and is committed to closing the achievement gap. Our rapport with the OEIB is positive and we continually look for ways to become involved – to partner with them in helping all kids achieve. But to date, involvement has been appointment to two advisory committees. I greatly appreciated serving on those committees, but they've been dormant for some time now.

The OSBA is very grateful for the support and leadership by the Legislature in helping students achieve. School Boards have a major responsibility in closing the achievement gap, and we need a voice in setting education policy for which we're responsible. We urge your support of HB 4077, adding a school board member to the OEIB.

Thank you for your consideration.