

HB 4117

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Fagan

House Committee on Education

Public Hearing and Possible Work Session, February 10th, 2014

1:00 p.m., Hearing Room D

Good afternoon Chair Gelser and members of the Committee.

I am proud that we passed the largest K-12 budget in Oregon history last year, but we still have work to do to rebuild from a decade of underfunding that led to crowded classrooms, fewer school days, and cut programs.

Given the severity of the situation for public schools across our state, we must prioritize our resources. House Bill 4117 focuses on the right priorities by making targeted investments in 19 of Oregon's highest poverty schools. We know that the summer learning gap is a challenge many Oregon kids face, and the five-week summer instructional program proposed in this bill would go a long way toward bridging that gap.

I recognize that our budget is tight, but if funding is available, I believe the extra support should go to important causes like this one, which would help nearly 5,500 students at these low-performing, high-poverty schools. This bill is important to me because of the 19 schools that are mentioned in this bill, many of these schools are in my district. This bill would help close the gap that these students face.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.