

TESTIMONY



BEFORE THE: House Education Committee
REGARDING: House Bill 4117 - Support
BY: Morgan Allen, Legislative Specialist
DATE: 2-10-14

Chair Gelser and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Morgan Allen and I writing today on behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association. We are asking for your support for House Bill 4117, which would help ensure that children in some of Oregon's highest poverty schools have access to funds to provide additional supports for their students.

Research has consistently shown that the summer break is a time when many students may actually regress in their academic studies. For students who are struggling to keep up with their peers, this extended break from studies exacerbates the academic achievement gap.

One of the most effective ways to help close the academic achievement gap is to provide additional instructional hours and academic supports to students. House Bill 4117 will help some of our most challenged schools provide high quality summer instruction to our most disadvantaged students.

During the 2013 Session the Legislature made an important investment in our Title I schools identified as "priority" and "focus" under the terms of Oregon's original NCLB waiver. It allowed these schools to target funds for programs to help close achievement gaps. House Bill 4117 is an important extension of this investment and ensures that schools that have subsequently been identified are able to provide summer supports to their students.

The Oregon School Boards Association urges your support for House Bill 4117.