



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Dixon, Commissioner

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Sara Gelser, Chair
House Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
VIA EMAIL: rep.saragelser@state.or.us

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

I regret that I am unable to attend your February 12 session in order to express my support for House Bill 4134. As a board member of our Coordinated Care Organization, I must attend that meeting tomorrow due to critical decisions pending relative to our county's participation in a regional Early Learning Hub.

In addition to my role as a Benton County Commissioner, I serve as Vice Chair of the Youth Development Council (YDC) and as a member of the Governor's Public Safety Task Force, and previously served as Oregon's representative to the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice.

House Bill 4134 – the Governor's Bill – is the result of months of work by YDC staff and member volunteers to fully implement the House Bill 3231 Funding Allocation Plan. It allocates funds to communities, based upon indicators of need, for youth ages six through 20. Indicators of need will be focused on degree of educational success, labor force participation, and criminal involvement and aligns with the Governor's 40-40-20 goal for Oregon.

House Bill 4134 increases community access and inclusivity in the decision making process for community-based prevention and intervention programs. It supports increased partnerships with communities and the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. House Bill 4134 need not dismantle existing productive programs, but does insure community involvement in deciding where to spend dollars most productively and requires allocation of funds to take place by public process.

I urge the House Committee on Education to support the passage of this bill. The children are waiting.

Sincerely,

cc: Tim Inman, Legislative Director – tim.inman@state.or.us
Matthew Tschabold – matthew.tschabold@state.or.us