



Oregon Department of Education

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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Dear Chair Gelser and members of the House Committee on Education:

I would like to lend my strong support to House Bill 4134, which directs the Youth Development Council to allocate funds to support community-based prevention and intervention programs and services based on indicators of need to the at-risk and high-risk age 6 to 20 youth population in Oregon.

As you know, the Youth Development Council has fully integrated as a division in the Department of Education. I have seen first-hand the passion and dedication the division has demonstrated to help these youth stay engaged in school, and for those who have become disconnected, to re-engage in school. The council's plan to allocate funds to Opportunity Youth and Priority Youth is a good one.

The Youth Development Council is using data indicators to target resources to the highest needs communities in the state, and these indicators align with measures used by the Oregon Education Investment Board and Department of Education to track educational success.

The funding plan is essential for Oregon to reach its 40/40/20 goal, as the council will be funding programs and services for youth most likely to disconnect from school and not receive a high school diploma.

I ask that you please support the Governor's House Bill 4134, and give the Youth Development Council the support it needs to provide essential programs and services to this population of youth in Oregon.

Respectfully,

Rob S. Saxton

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction