

BARBARA SMITH WARNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 45



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To: Senate Education Committee
Fr: Rep. Barbara Smith Warner
Re: Support for HB 4090

Date: February 18, 2014

Chair Hass and members of the Senate Education Committee:

For the record my name is Barbara Smith Warner—State Representative from House District 45 which covers portions of Northeast Portland, Maywood Park and Parkrose.

I testify today in support of House Bill 4090, which was passed out of the House on a unanimous vote on February 11th. HB4090 would increase the availability of summer meals in high-need districts by providing grants to local school districts and community groups to encourage greater participation in summer lunch and after-school meal programs.

Summer food is a critical resource for families who rely on free and reduced price meals during the school year, because hunger doesn't take summers off. At Parkrose schools in my district, almost three-quarters (74.8%) of students are eligible to participate in such meals, and all six schools in the Parkrose district currently qualify to have the summer meals served. However, two years ago, they had only one site because the district couldn't afford to open any other sites. In 2012 they had three.

As a mom, I know firsthand that hungry kids simply can't focus. This funding will help more sites open, which means more kids will get more meals served closer to their homes.

With the increased investment allocated in 2013, extending the opportunity for schools and nonprofit organizations to reach out to the community and increase participation in the summer and after-school programs will move us toward our shared goal that no child in Oregon goes hungry. Working together, in partnership across Oregon for the health of our children, H.B. 4090 moves us significantly closer to meeting this critical goal.

I strongly encourage your 'yes' vote, and appreciate your support of House Bill 4090.