

Dear Chair Doherty and Committee Members:

HB 2848 makes a simple but important change to existing state law that applies to school calendars. Every school day is critical in Oregon. As compared to many states, we have fewer school days each year. In many areas of the state, there are usually a couple days (and sometimes more) each year that adverse weather closes the schools. Many school districts don't make up these lost days, which is obviously a bad solution. Most other districts add these days back at the very end of school year. At that time, high school seniors are finished with classes, other students are taking different classes than the ones that were missed, and students, families, and school staffs have planned those last days as non-school days or have mentally "checked out".

A few districts have a better solution and HB 2848 encourages that. Creating a school calendar that adds the missed school days back into the same term or quarter addresses the problems listed above. However, HB 2848 would cause a better result by slightly modifying the language to require adding back the school days into the calendar as described, but allowing districts to opt out if not practicable.

Every school day is important, and making the most of every school day is important. HB 2848 is one small but easy step to take to do that.

Thanks.
Bob Danko
8455 Highway 35
Parkdale, OR 97041

cc Rep. Johnson