

Baker Charter Schools 2725 7th St Baker City, OR 97814 <u>http://www.bakercharters.org</u> 541-524-2300

February 5, 2018

RE: HB 4036

House Education Committee Members:

I regret I am not able to attend in person for the hearing today. However, I am in full support of HB 4036. As one of the chief advocates of SB 208 last year, I fully support the changes offered in HB 4036.

While I understand the background behind having OSAA in the language in the original rules, I believe removing that specific requirement will provide more opportunity for students. This year I have had multiple students across the state be denied the ability to participate in interscholastic activities because they are not specifically OSAA related. Recently a student from Summit High School in Bend was denied the ability to participate in alpine skiing by OSSA (Oregon Ski School Association). As a result, this season was must participate as an individual and will be denied the ability to qualify for competitions. Earlier this year I had a very frustrated parent contact news stations over not being able to participate in the middle school band. Our students and parents simply want access to these experiences.

Unfortunately, in the first year of applying these rules students are still being denied the ability to participate. The changes proposed not only increase opportunity, but also clarify key funding pieces. From my perspective in the field supporting students and working with districts, these proposed changes are desperately needed. I urge you to support this bill and move it forward.

All the best,

Daniel Huld, Ed. D. Superintendent Baker Charter Schools <u>dhuld@bakercharters.org</u> 503-929-3393