



Our mission is to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, college or career training.

February 6, 2018

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

On behalf of Stand for Children, I am writing to urge your support of HB 4102, a bill that directs the Oregon Department of Education to conduct a study related to high school dropouts.

Implementing dropout prevention strategies is one of the three core pillars of Measure 98. We believe that this study is complementary to the implementation of the Measure because it will help stakeholders statewide better understand why our students are dropping out; what happens to our students after dropping out; whether students who leave our traditional K-12 system pursue additional education; and methods in, and supports for, re-engaging students toward earning a high school diploma, or GED certificate.

The more we can do to re-engage and support our students, the better off they will be. As a result, our communities, our state, and our economy will benefit.

Here's a glimpse of the annual benefits Oregonians would see if our graduation rate was 90%<sup>1</sup>:

- \$76.7 million each year in additional earnings;
- \$8.2 million more in state and local tax revenues;
- \$130 million in increased economic growth, and hundreds of new jobs.

Please vote Yes on HB 4102. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Parasa Chanramy". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Parasa Chanramy  
Policy & Advocacy Manager

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<sup>1</sup> Alliance for Excellent Education, "The Graduation Effect: Oregon Profile," (Published October 2017)  
<http://impact.all4ed.org/#potential/income/oregon/all-students/>