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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 52
Clackamas, Hood River and Multnomah Counties



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony: House Bill 4044

Rep. Jeff Helfrich, House District 52

Education Committee: 2/7/2018

Good afternoon Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Hernandez, Vice Chair Wilson, and members of the Committee. For the record, I am Jeff Helfrich, representative from House District 52. I am the Chief Sponsor of House Bill 4044, and Sen. Chuck Thomsen of Senate District 26 is the Chief Co-Sponsor and unable to be here today as he is in a Committee meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 4044, a bill to study the recruitment, retention, mentoring and professional development of educators who serve students in public preschool through grade 12 who may be at-risk for experiencing an achievement gap.

As I said at the presentation of this as a legislative concept during Legislative Days, children are our greatest natural resource. Having quality, supported educators of our children is critical to the development and fostering of the success of this natural resource.

This bill is the result of me, and my Chief of Staff Dr. Brandy Ethridge-Lipke, who holds a PhD in Education, having discussions with educators and high level administrators in Hood River, the Multnomah Education Service District and the Clackamas Education Service District.

As you will hear in testimony today, HB4044 will build on: Senate Bill 755 and the resulting Educator Equity Report; address the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Educator Advancement; Oregon's Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA plan; and the newly launched 2018 Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning or TELL Oregon survey which opened on February 1st and closes on February 28th.

As I stated, HB 4044 will study the recruitment, retention, mentoring and professional development of educators who serve students in public preschool through grade 12 who may be at-risk for experiencing an achievement gap when compared to other groups.

The bill has a four-fold purpose: Identify, research, review and assess programs used in school districts and education service districts that support educators. To unpack this, HB 4044 will:

1. Identify the programs assessed and funding sources for those programs, that have been most effective or efficient in improving the recruitment, retention, mentoring and professional development of educators OR have been most effective or efficient in positively impacting student outcomes for students
2. Identify schools or districts that have implemented programs identified
 - a. And for each of these identify the:
 - i. Reasons the program was effective or efficient OR was able to positively impact student outcomes;
 - ii. Populations of educators or students served by the program; and
 - iii. Challenges and opportunities for success and improved outcomes for educators and students

We have been told that this has minimal or no fiscal impact. We ask that you hear the testimonies today that speak to the importance and potential positive impact of this bill on our educators, our children and our State.