



# Corvallis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 11, 2019  
House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature

Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee:

I am testifying in support of HB 2224, which provides support for the social, emotional, mental, and physical health needs of students.

In the Corvallis School District, we strive to provide a learning environment that works for all students. My belief is that students do well if they can, not if they want to. The social and emotional challenges many of our students face are most often due to adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs. These experiences can manifest in a number of ways including cognitive impairment, social/emotional dysregulation, and suicidal ideation. These are our most vulnerable students who would be most served by this measure.

I am proud of the educational outcomes in Corvallis. Our four-year graduation rate for 2017-18 was 87% district-wide and 89% at both Corvallis High School and Crescent Valley High School. In order to gain an understanding of why students are not graduating, I meet with principals and counselors from each high school to discuss students in danger of not graduating or who did not graduate. Two groups persistently are not successful in progressing to graduation. The first group includes highly mobile students. These students come into our district with a deficit of high school credits and need more time to complete their credits. The second group includes students that have been in our district for the majority of their educational career and are experiencing a number of social and emotional barriers that prevent them from being successful in school. This measure would allow us to support these students as early as possible in their educational journey to give them the best possible chance to have academic success.

We have incredible teachers throughout the state of Oregon. They care deeply about the well-being and success of their students and the fact is they are serving students with greater and greater needs. We must provide our educators with skills to support their students. This is vital to retain our teaching professionals in public schools. We must provide teachers with ongoing training and professional development to support a learning environment that supports the social and emotional needs of students.

I believe providing additional funding related to the health and wellness of our students is vital to serve the needs of students and to improve the graduation rate of my district and districts throughout the State of Oregon. I strongly urge you to support measure 2224 to make education work for all students. It is critical that we provide all students with the support and skills needed to be successful in school and life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Noss".

Ryan Noss  
Superintendent