

April 8, 2019

Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee,

Hunger in Oregon remains unacceptably high. An estimated 173,000 children in Oregon live in households that experience or are at risk of hunger. That's about one in five kids.

Worse still, one in three of children at risk of hunger don't qualify for free school meals. But ask any teacher: it's harder for kids facing hunger to learn.

Healthy school meals are an important part of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to ensuring students are healthy and ready to learn.

That is why the Healthy Kids Learn Better Coalition supports:

- **HB 2760-1: Universal Access to School Meals.** Makes Oregon's schools hunger-free by filling federal funding gaps so 761 schools with the highest need can offer meals to all kids at no charge. For the remaining 484 schools, Oregon would provide targeted support to students so eligibility for school meals is consistent with children's health insurance.
- **HB 2765-1: Breakfast After the Bell.** Ensures students have access to breakfast at school by ensuring that breakfast is available after the bell at schools with the highest rates of poverty.

This is an opportunity to pass historic legislation to ensure our students have the foundation of a nutritious breakfast and lunch to succeed academically. We urge you to pass these game-changing investments to our education system that will directly contribute to the success of Oregon's students.

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