



January 31, 2020

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

The Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, representing over 2,500 members from across Oregon, would like to offer our support of House Bill 4140. This bill will provide an academic resource for educators to provide the best, most appropriate educational accommodations to students who have experienced a traumatic brain injury and are returning to the classroom.

We sincerely appreciate Rep. Neron and her staff's willingness to collaborate with education partners and take our feedback to get the bill right. A large table of stakeholders convened to offer feedback, and as of our last meeting together, all stakeholders were satisfied with the current language. This version preserves the local control of school districts who operate with different staffing structures and resources in different parts of the state, and it makes clear that educators may provide educational accommodations and not medical services.

With greater resources available in the future, we may be able to provide a more robust system for students returning to the classroom with a brain injury; COSA supports a continued conversation about this issue and looks forward to more collaboration. We are also excited about the potential for districts to invest in the physical, mental, and behavioral health of their students with new funding from the Student Success Act and hope that this bill will support those efforts across Oregon.

House Bill 4140 is an important step forward in serving students recovering from brain injuries. We ask that you support the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Ben Bowman
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)