

February 3rd, 2020 House Education Committee: HB 4132

Chair Dougherty and committee members, my name is Liz Thorne Chair of the Healthy Kids Learn Better Coalition, a statewide coalition of organizations working collectively to keep young people healthy, connected and ready to learn. I am thrilled to be in front of this committee to discuss HB 4132, the Oregon Student Health Survey bill.

HB 4132 asks the Legislature to invest in the only source of statewide data that for decades has illuminated the strengths, experiences and disparities in health outcomes among our young people. This Fall the Oregon Student Health Survey will be administered to students across the state, providing essential information about their health, well-being, and experiences at school that we know impact success in school and healthy development.

HB 4132 asks legislators to invest in this critical data source in the following ways:

- **Allocate funding for administration of the survey.** The survey does not have a dedicated funding stream and is currently funded collectively by public health programs at the OHA.
- **Increase capacity at the Oregon Health Authority to support schools and districts to effectively use their data,** and connect them to local resources. This bill does not require district participation. Instead, it is our hope that with additional support to fully use their data, more schools and districts will want to participate in order drive decisions in curriculum, programming and services and potentially show how their investments through the Student Success Act have moved the needle on student mental health, safety and climate.
- **Codify the planning and reporting practices that are already in place** while providing flexibility for continued improvement to meet school/district needs. The bill outlines a planning process that engages school stakeholders (such as administrators and teachers), young people, tribes, local public health, and community partners in the survey development- exactly the type of community engagement that informed the development of the 2020 Student Health Survey.

Please support HB 4132. Invest in the data schools and communities need to help young people reach their full potential.

