

To: House Education Committee  
From: Alicia Temple, Oregon Law Center  
Date: February 3, 2020  
Re: HB 4132

Chair Doherty and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center (OLC), I respectfully request your support for HB 4132 to ensure the Oregon Student Health Survey can be fully implemented and collect the data we need about students' health and wellbeing.

OLC is a non-profit organization that provides free legal help to people struggling to make ends meet. Our mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities in Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services. We advocate for our clients and for the services and programs that help them to overcome poverty. Many of our clients seek our assistance to address legal issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking. These issues greatly contribute to the vulnerability of our clients, and further trap them in poverty.

The Oregon Student Health Survey is the only statewide source of data on school climate and student health and well-being. It provides the information needed to help state agencies, districts, schools, and community partners make data-driven decisions to support youth in schools. In a time of unprecedented investment from the Student Success Act it will continue to be vitally important to track the wellbeing of students.

The Oregon Student Health Survey is particularly important to understand the culture of schools and the presence of dating violence and abuse. There is a strong correlation between teen dating violence and future health and social problems. The data provided by the Oregon Student Health Survey informs how violence and abuse are connected to student health, school climate and structure, and how students are practicing both healthy and unhealthy behaviors.

The connection between student health and wellbeing and addressing dating violence and abuse makes the Oregon Student Health Survey Bill a critical tool. Please support HB 4132 to give educators and health partners the necessary information to support the health, well-being, and academic achievement of Oregon youth.