



February 3, 2020

To: Honorable Representative Doherty & Education Committee members  
Title: Chair, House Committee on Education Oregon State Legislature  
RE: Support for House Bill 4140

Dear Representative Doherty and other members of House Committee on Education,

I am a Coordinator of Special Programs and Regional TBI liaison at the Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD). The SOESD provides special education service supports for 13 component school districts, over 100 buildings, 3,500 teachers and 52,000 students in Jackson, Josephine and Klamath Counties—a 10,600 square-mile geographic area. In addition, SOESD provides specialized supports to students with low-incidence disabilities (i.e. Autism, Vision Impairment, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Orthopedic Impairment and Traumatic Brain Injury) to another 276 students in 15 school districts in Douglas and in Lake Counties through a regional service contract with the Oregon Department of Education. Across the SOESD's regional service area, approximately 38 students (birth to age 21) are currently identified with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). We know from health care statistics that this number is an underrepresentation of actual head injury cases. Students with concussion and traumatic brain injury are currently not being accurately identified and tracked in Oregon, and nationwide.

I support this bill because it would allow us, educators, to better identify, track, accommodate and serve students with head injury in the school setting. Our educators and special service providers can only assist students if they are aware of the students' head injury and if they have a well-defined process to assess and track the impact of the injury. This bill is aiming to establish the critical first steps in the process.

I really appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Agnes Lee-Wolfe".

Agnes Lee-Wolfe  
Coordinator, Special Programs