

February 3, 2020

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today in support of HB 4132 the Oregon Student Health Survey. My name is Midori Erwin, and I am a senior at Woodburn High School. I am also a member of the Planned Parenthood Woodburn Teen Council, where I serve as a peer educator for sex ed. Through Teen Council, I learned about medically-accurate and inclusive sexual health information and now lead classroom presentations for my peers on topics such as birth control, abstinence, STIs, and healthy relationships.

All young people, no matter where they live, should have access to the information and skills they need to protect their health and plan their futures. The Oregon Student Health Survey gives educators and health partners important information about our health and well-being so our schools know what they need to do to help us be successful. Because the survey is anonymous, it can get a lot more students to respond truthfully and be honest about their lives.

I like that the survey asks inclusive questions about how you identify and what your sexual orientation is and about bullying and feeling safe in school. The thing I like the most about my work on Teen Council is how inclusive it is. I think talking about how important it is to use inclusive language and making it normal for people to ask about pronouns helps to make school safer and a more comfortable environment.

Please support HB 4132 and help schools get the information they need to really support their students.

Midori Erwin