



February 10, 2019

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Helt and Alonso Leon, and members of the committee:

The undersigned stakeholders, representing a broad spectrum of school district employees, locally elected board members, and public education advocates, ask for you to vote Yes on House Bill 4136.

HB 4136 would continue funding for “activity bus” services in school districts across Oregon. The allocation in this bill will directly fund the transportation options that are alternative to the traditional school “yellow bus” runs that are most common in schools. The existing structure for this allocation deliberately emphasizes funding these services in Oregon’s small and rural school districts.

Access to transportation is among the challenges most frequently invoked as a barrier by parents, students, and public education stakeholders. Lack of reliable, consistent transportation to and from school damages student achievement. It deprives students of the academic enrichment during field trips and other off-campus activities. It reduces connection to the school community by limiting access to afterschool opportunities, including athletics. And it exacerbates the existing harms that traditionally underserved students experience, including students experiencing homelessness and students experiencing poverty.

HB 4136 is a practical bill that directly funds services for students. It will tangibly benefit public school student experience. It is relatively low-cost. Rules and implementation practices have been created. All that the program needs is funding. Please vote yes on HB 4136.

Richard Donovan, OSBA

Ben Bowman, COSA

Laurie Wimmer, OEA

Bob Estabrook, OSEA

Parasa Chanramy, Stand for Children

Ozzie Rose, OAESD