



February 17, 2020

RE: Support for HB 4140

TO: Oregon Senate

I am writing this letter in support of HB 4140. I'm unable to attend the hearing in person as I'm in clinic taking care of brain injured youth and adults. I work as a Sports Medicine Physician at Rebound Orthopedics and Neurosurgery and OHSU Sports Medicine (Depts of Family Medicine and Neurology). One of my specific areas of subspecialty is in concussion diagnosis and management including hundreds of concussion research publications, presentations and lectures. I've worked for 25 years in Oregon caring for concussions as well as teaching, lecturing and researching about concussions. My current role at OHSU is Director of the OHSU Concussion program where we see over 1000 patients a year with traumatic brain injuries. Despite our ability to improve the diagnosis and treatment of concussions, I've found that public policy advances in Oregon over the last 10 years have made an even greater impact on public awareness and appropriate management. Partnering with other experts across the state at the OSAA, CBIRT, the Center in Bend and Slocum Sports Medicine in Eugene, along with Dave Kracke and Sherry Stock and OCAMP, we have made great strides in enacting Max's Law and Jenna's Law to help guide safe practices on the field of play in the community and at school. As a member of Oregon Governor's Task Force on Traumatic Brain Injury, we have recommended appointment of an Oregon TBI Advocate/ Liaison within the state government who can help enact our recommendations which include return to learn guidelines, all of which still have not been fully implemented. Although we have made some significant impact on return to school research and guidelines through OSAA, CBIRT and OCAMP, we need more standardization, formalization, and availability of return to learn and brain injury accommodation protocols. HB 4140 can provide this impetus and guidance which has been otherwise difficult to enact without a state law.

I give my full support to HB 4140. I applaud the work of Melissa McCart and Dave Kracke and Rep. Neron and others from CBIRT, OCAMP, OSAA and the HB 4140 work group in formulating this bill. HB 4140 is critical to help students, parents and educators receive and implement an effective return to learn/ academic accommodation program in Oregon.

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