



February 18, 2020

To: Senate Education Committee

Re: Support for HB 4140

Chair Wagner and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) would like to share its strong support of HB 4140, which ensures educators have access to resources and information to assist them as they make academic accommodations for students in their classes who have experienced concussions or other traumatic brain injuries (TBI) that may impact their learning.

An estimated 283,000 children seek care in U.S. emergency departments each year for a sports- or recreation-related TBI, and an estimated 812,000 children were treated in U.S. EDs for concussion or TBI in 2014.¹ Cognitive difficulties following a concussion have long been recognized and can clearly affect students' learning capabilities as they recover. Most people with concussions recover quickly and fully, but for some people, symptoms can last for days, weeks, or longer. In general, recovery may be slower among young children and teens.

When children with brain injuries return to school, their educational and emotional needs are sometimes very different than before the injury. With the passage of HB 4140, schools and teachers will have return to learning and brain injury protocols available to them as guidance to ease students' transition back to the school environment and help facilitate their recovery. Partnerships between medical and education providers, such as the resources made available by HB 4140, are critical in minimizing adverse academic impacts and guiding a successful return to school.

OHSU is proud to support HB 4140, and asks for your consideration of this important legislation.

Thank you.

¹ Sarmiento K, Thomas KE, Daugherty J, et al. Emergency Department Visits for Sports- and Recreation-Related Traumatic Brain Injuries Among Children — United States, 2010–2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:237–242. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6810a2>