

Co-Chairs Kotek and Courtney. I support an amendment to HB 4212 that would provide temporary and targeted liability protections to public schools that are adhering to state and federal public health guidelines and rules to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure. Without this protection, school districts will be potentially subject to potentially budget-busting liabilities should students or staff become infected with the novel coronavirus, even as school boards act in good faith and in concert with the Governor's orders and the best available advice on precautions to protect students and staff.

As school boards contemplate reopening and how to do so with protections and reduced risks, they need this additional assurance that even if they experience case(s) of COVID-19 despite best practices, they will not become subject to demands for compensation that would threaten their ability to keep the schools open.

Of course we hope and pray that students and their families, and staff and their families, are safe + strong and that the pandemic will not impact those we hold most close in love and care. At the same time, this emergency requires that public resources be used to maintain the most important services, among them is the education of our youth.

Duane Fickeisen, Minister Emeritus

Grandparent of Corbett Public School Students

Father of Corbett School Board Member

Portland, OR