



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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**Colt Gill**

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

## **House Bill 3234 - Instruction on Organ Donation**

### **House Education Committee**

**April 8, 2021**

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the House Education Committee, I am Jessica Ventura, Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education. I am submitting this written testimony to provide information as you consider HB 3234. We have no position on the bill.

#### **Issue:**

Currently, there is no requirement that school districts teach about organ donation in health education or in any other content areas.

#### **HB 3234**

The bill requires school districts to provide instruction on organ and tissue donation and education each year K-12 for at least 15 minutes per year. School districts and schools will need to determine what age appropriate instructional materials they will use to deliver organ and tissue donation at each grade level and determine when and how it will occur in each grade level. There are no stated responsibilities for ODE.

#### **-1 Amendment**

The Amendment adds a great deal of responsibility for ODE. The Amendment requires ODE to develop a curriculum relating to organ and tissue donation and education and to make the curriculum available to school districts for their optional use.

The Amendment does not specify what grade levels the proposed curriculum would cover. If we assume that the intent is to align with the original bill and develop one lesson per grade level, ODE would need to develop 13 lessons. This could be done by contracting with 4 teachers (primary, upper elementary, middle, and high school level) and an expert in organ and tissue donation for approximately 40 hours each.

If the bill does not require school districts to provide instruction each year, there are no cost instructional materials on organ and tissue donation that already exist for school districts to use. However, since ODE does not have ownership rights of these materials, we would not be able to guarantee them to be available for districts, as the owners could remove access at any time.

Here are just a few examples:

- [Donate Life Northwest Educational Resources](#)
- [The Chris Klug Foundation Interactive Educational Toolkit](#)
- [Donate Life California Educator Resources](#)

## **-2 Amendment**

The -2 Amendment directs each school district to provide instruction on organ and tissue donation and education in grades 9-12 as part of the health curriculum. The State Board of Education is responsible for adopting new health education content standards necessary for school districts to comply with the new requirement. The -2's does not provide funding for professional development to teach to the new instruction standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The amendment does not direct ODE to develop lesson plans specifically to cover these standards. Commercial instructional materials for health education may or may not cover this topic. If it is found that they do not, it may be more difficult to find health instructional materials that cover all standards and school districts may need to purchase or develop supplemental materials to ensure this topic is covered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any additional questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Ventura  
Government Relations Director