



February 1, 2022

Chair Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Vice-Chair Representative Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair Representative Suzanne Weber
Members of the House Committee on Education

Re: Support for HB 4029 – Board and Superintendent Professional Learning Bill

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Committee on Education--

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **HB 4029**, a bill that would strengthen the partnerships between school boards and superintendents to improve the success of all students in Oregon.

FACT Oregon is the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, designated Parent Training Information (PTI) Center serving Oregon families as they navigate Special Education services. We help thousands of families each year navigate raising a child experiencing disability by providing peer delivered support, training, and resources. We support and equip families, wherever they may be on their journey. The outcome of our work is families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where our schools and communities are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

Students with disabilities were already struggling to access their education before the pandemic, but it's clear that COVID-19 and the shift to Comprehensive Distance Learning for a big chunk of the last two years has created even more barriers and educational challenges for students with disabilities.

At a time when school leadership should be supported to be laser-focused on centering the needs of underserved students and closing the achievement and opportunity gaps for students who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, we are instead seeing a different story play out in many school districts across our state where relationships between school boards and superintendents are increasingly strained.

The common-sense solutions put forward in this legislation would ensure that school boards and superintendents receive the professional learning and training they need around educational equity and collaborative governance to help them plan and work together effectively as a team in service of all students. We will not improve outcomes for students until we have stability in our schools, and in our school leadership teams, and the solutions offered in this bill will be a good start to improved, more functional school board-superintendent relationships that will better support all students.

Thank you for considering this testimony. ***We urge you to vote "yes" in support of HB 4029.***

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