



Phoenix-Talent Schools

Excellence For Everyone

January 31, 2022

Phoenix-Talent School District #4
401 W. 4th Street
Phoenix, OR 97535

Dear Rep. Nancy Nathanson,

We want to first thank the chief sponsors of House Bill 4026 and the bipartisan support we are hearing from our legislative representatives. Our school district is appreciative of the elected representatives in our region who have championed the effort to secure Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding for districts impacted by the September, 2020 fires. We are hopeful HB 4026 will pass this session and provide hope while we recover and rebuild.

In the immediate aftermath of the Almeda fire, nearly 700 of the Phoenix-Talent students were homeless and scattered across the Rogue Valley. This devastating event caused tremendous stress, trauma and unimaginable loss to our entire district. Our district lost 354 students largely due to lack of housing in our district. Those 354 students represent a total potential loss of over \$3,550,000 for 2021-22 between the state school fund, the Student Investment Act and the High School Success fund. Over the next four years, that loss in funds could total over \$14,000,000. We have seen direct results from Student Investment Act (SIA) and High School Success Grant (HSS) dollars and the thought of losing more funding from these sources would be devastating to our students and staff.


Your commitment to passing HB 4026 is vital to our district and our community. Although we are starting to see housing come back, it will take years to rebuild our community to where it was before the fires. Until this happens, our students have nowhere to live in our district, many of whom are migrant and low-income families. The passing of this bill would give our district and the other districts affected by the fires time to rebuild and bring our families back, while continuing mental health supports, athletics/activities and programs that keep kids connected.

We appreciate all that you do in support of our school funding and will look forward to HB 4026 passing in the February session.

Respectfully,

Phoenix-Talent School District Board of Directors


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