

Submitter: Raaga Mandala
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4099

Good afternoon, Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the house education committee! Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony to HB4099.

For the record, my name is Raaga Mandala, I am a 7th grader in Beaverton School District. As an elected Kid Governor of Oregon, I represented fifth graders across the state in the year 2020. During my one year tenure, I was able to experience, up close, how government policies are created and implemented at the state level.

I am supportive of HB4099 because I firmly believe that youth should be involved in making policies that directly affect them. We are never too young to get our voices heard. Including us in policy-making positively impacts our academic, social and emotional development. As a ten year old, I was able to advocate and fundraise for the underprivileged, and motivate others to contribute to our community. I feel fearless in voicing my opinions. When I go up and address a gathering now, people take me seriously, and NONE of this would have been possible without the leadership opportunities I got from the Kid Governor program. I feel extremely fortunate to have received such an amazing opportunity so early on in my student life. HB4099 helps students like me get the voice, visibility and strength they need to flourish.

Empower youth NOW, for THEY are the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you again for your time and the opportunity to testify today and I urge you to vote yes on HB4099.