

House Committee on Rules
Testimony in Support of HB 4114
February 10, 2022

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson & Fahey,
and Representatives Holvey, Valderrama, Wallan, and Zika,

My name is Silky Booker and I am a member of the Oregon
Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA). I write on behalf of
OCBA to express our support of HB 4114.

1. The Commission on Black Affairs works toward economic, social, political, and legal equity for Black Oregonians. We do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership development, and partnerships.
2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy making, the OCBA strongly supports HB 4114.

As we continue our democratic form of government, we see a rise of active participation of the citizens and residents of Oregon in their government. One area that has been of increased importance to various individuals and groups is the education of our children. While we applaud the civic engagement of individuals and encourage the participation of community members in standing for office from school board on up to Federal offices, a major issue is to ensure the integrity of systems with the disclosure of conflicts of interest and the disclosure of the economic interest of school board members.

**Oregon Commission on
Black Affairs**

Chair:
Mariotta Gary-Smith

Vice-Chair:
Dr. Angela Addae, Esq.

Commissioners:
Dr. Silky J. Booker (H.C.)
Djimet Dogo
Benjamin Duncan
Jessica Price, Esq.

Legislative Members:
Senator James I. Manning

**Oregon Advocacy Commissions
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Albert Lee, Executive Director
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Dr. Kyl Myers, Public Affairs

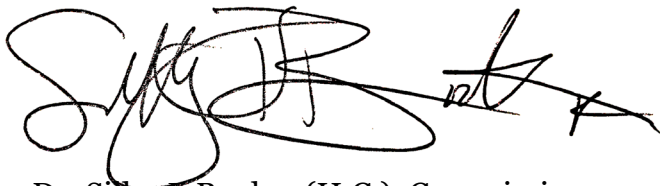


HB 4114 would merely add school board members as but one of many other officials that are required to submit statements of economic interest. This will help the public to understand any influences or considerations that board members may hold outside the scope of their duties as school board members that may color their decisions. School boards collectively exact a significant amount of power and make decisions that impact and touch on many areas of our state economy. They control expenditures in the billions of dollars and tend to the needs of a tremendous workforce of teachers and education-related employees within their districts. Their impact is considerable and for this reason, they should be added to the list of officials required to provide Economic Interest Statements.

The best form of government is one that is of, by, and for the people and is open and transparent.

We urge you to pass HB 4114 for the transparency and integrity of our school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Silky J. Booker', followed by a stylized flourish.

Dr. Silky J. Booker (H.C.), Commissioner
The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

