



# Grants Pass School District No. 7

Office of School Improvement  
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To: Members of the House

February 16, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 4150. As an employee serving in the Grants Pass School District, I am supportive of and understand the critical importance of efforts proposed to establish a comprehensive and statewide Community Information Exchange.

One of the chief barriers many of our families face is not just access to healthcare and family services, but the connection between those services. Clearing the way for information to be shared between agencies can actually open up doors to much-needed services, aligning them to better meet the needs of our families. When students and families are well, students come to school, succeed in school, and have a much higher rate of graduating into successful postsecondary opportunities that include continued education or employment. We also know that the way we work as humans is that we feel and then we think. If we are not feeling well, this impacts our ability to think well. I would argue that helping everyone to feel well systematically decreases the burden to our community's social supports, medical supports, and mental health supports.

HB 4150 at its core instructs the Oregon Health Authority's Health Information Technology Council to convene the Community Information Exchange Workgroup to accelerate, support, and improve a secure and confidential statewide community information exchange (CIE). Our local CCOs have already funded the launch of CIE for our region and we know this effort will result in increased positive health outcomes for our community.

Implementation of a statewide CIE in Oregon will allow community-based organizations, state agencies, health systems, county health departments, social service agencies, and technology partners to coordinate efforts to assess and address the social determinants of health for the people in our state. Systemic inequities and regionally variable availability and delivery of social and medical services in our state have long plagued many of the clients our organizations want to support. By passing this bill, the CIE

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workgroup will help inform a path for Oregon to be able to strategically and effectively implement a system that will dramatically improve delivery of coordinated services to the people in our community while increasing transparency and accountability for the investments we are making as a state. The CIE workgroup, with diverse representation and coordination with the OHA and the state is a necessary next step towards most effectively and equitably rolling out a statewide system and we ask for your support for HB 4150 to help underline the importance of this work.

I hope you will seriously consider the positive outcomes of this work. When we collaboratively work to care for each other, our whole community is positively impacted.

Sincerely,



Todd Bloomquist, EdD  
Director of School Improvement