

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today as a high school sophomore in a rural community in Oregon, and I would like to express my strong support for HB 2751 which seeks to establish a Task Force on School Starting Times. As someone who is directly affected by the current school schedule, I know firsthand the negative impact that early school start times have on students, particularly in rural communities.

Starting school too early in the morning can lead to a lack of sleep and decreased academic performance, as well as health problems such as depression and anxiety. As someone who has struggled with these issues, I can attest to the importance of addressing this problem in our schools.

In a rural community, many students have to get up early to help with family chores or farm work before school. This leaves them exhausted and unable to focus in the classroom, leading to a lower quality of education. I believe that by establishing a task force to study and collect data related to school starting times, we can better understand the impact of this issue on students in rural communities and find solutions that will help us get the most out of our education.

I strongly urge you to support HB 2751 and give students like myself the chance to get the education we deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Devon Lawson-McCourt*

Sophomore Class President, McKenzie River Community School  
Vida, Oregon