

**Paul L Evans**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 20**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Courtney Neron  
State Representative  
House Committee on Education

Ref: House Bill 2768

Chair Neron:

I want to begin by thanking Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and all the members of this committee and staff – all of you who made today possible. This is a proposal a few years in the making.

House Bill 2768 is a relatively straight-forward proposal: it would require the establishment of a fund and support for appropriate implementation of a fund dedicated to assisting student inventors take a worthy new technology through the patenting process.

Over the past several years we have secured significant investments in K-12 and post-secondary Career Technical Education programming. Truth be told, over the next decade we will spend Billions of dollars on introducing young minds to skills and technical challenges that cannot help but inspire creativity and innovation. However, we have no methodology of capturing the potential value of moments of origination – no formalized, statewide supports – for the inventor and/or the learning environment where the invention takes place.

Oregon can become an oasis of innovation. We may or may not be able to recapture our historical place at the top of global chip development and manufacturing, but we most assuredly can become a space where creativity is prioritized – a place where people transform ideas into prototypes. I believe we can demonstrate the importance of innovation through an assistance program for would-be inventors. This bill sets the foundation through establishment of a dedicated fund and baseline expectations for supporting innovation.

Over time, I hope all Oregonians will have access to an affordable innovation pathway: a program linking concept assessment, market research, patenting protections, product development, and initial manufacturing. That dream will take time. We can begin to set the stage for it through passage of this bill – providing access for our K-12 students – through capturing emergent innovation through the patenting process.

Thank you for considering HB 2768. Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information from my office.

Respectfully,

Cc: State Representative Zach Hudson  
State Representative Boomer Wright