

Submitter: Derek Duman

Agency: Riverdale School District

Date: February 6, 2023

Committee: House Committee on Education

Measure: HB 2750

I am submitting written testimony in opposition to HB 2690.

The elimination of charging fees for interscholastic events will have a negative impact on smaller school districts that use sports fees to cover the logistical costs of interscholastic events (i.e. transportation, game management, official/referee fees, etc). At a recent board meeting, the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA), the governing body for interscholastic events in the state of Oregon, approved the increase of multiple fees that are paid by school districts. First, the annual fees are set to increase by 20% in the 2023-2024 school year. Second, the cost of sports officials is set to increase by at least 8% starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Third, the cost per activity offered is set to increase almost 12% starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

Eliminating our ability to charge these fees will have a negative impact on our ability to offer interscholastic activities at our school. Likely, we will need to reduce the opportunities we offer to accommodate the rising costs of our more popular sports. I appreciate the intent behind the bill. However, I believe districts are already meeting the needs of those students who can't afford these fees to ensure they are able to participate. This bill would ensure what we are already achieving while putting significant strains on districts to keep up with the rising costs of offering interscholastic sports. I believe passage would also disproportionately impact smaller school districts who already receive less funding.