



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Republican Leader Vikki Breese-Iverson, HD59

March 7th, 2023

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Truancy court is a way to help compel parents and more importantly kids to go to school. Truancy court has proven to be a very effective way to get kids to school. In school, kids can get the attention they need, seek services they may not be getting at home and most importantly be around other kids looking to build a future. The peer side of being around others walking the same path as you, helps provide larger thinking for opportunities available, some kids simply don't get this from their home situations.

When the court steps in after a kid has missed too much school, they seek to identify the root issue and first find paths for helping the kid and parents get on track with just showing up, often these paths include additional support for future success.

The Judges which have brought this issue to my attention, from my district, share stories of success for the kids they have helped find new paths for the future. These same Judges have been invited to many graduations, both high school and college, as a result of being a positive in the kids' life.

The original Truancy Court language allows for the program to be reinstated. As it was always a voluntary option for Counties, this allows for a local decision to be made if it is effective and supportive for these communities that opt in. The Task Force in the proposed amendment may be better than nothing but the opt in nature of the original bill truly allows for those Counties with a track record of success to keep moving forward. Please support SB 48, which is also a vote to support our kids.

Thank you for your time,

Leader Breese-Iverson