



TO: House Committee on Education  
FROM: Tony Hopson  
DATE: February 8, 2024

### **Support of HB 4084**

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

For over 40 years, Self Enhancement Inc. has been dedicated to guiding underserved youth to realize their full potential. Working with schools, families and partner community organizations, SEI provides support, guidance, and opportunities to achieve personal and academic success. In 2019, SEI served over 16,000 families and achieved a 96% high school graduation rate.

I'm honored to provide this letter of support for HB 4084 and the important need for Anthony's Circle whose mission is to improve high school graduation rates for Oregon foster youth. From its current rate of 42%, we aim to track this population towards 75%. Anthony's Circle recognized a need to develop a pilot project which will implement a full time Educational Navigator in three state schools: two high schools and one middle school. The intention is to guide and support foster youth through an educational program, extra-curricular activities and providing life skills on a consistent basis.

We look forward to sharing our many years of experience and successes with Anthony's Circle by collaborating with them on program development support, HR development consulting and our SEI bootcamp for Anthony's Circle employees.

I strongly urge the Oregon Legislators to approve HB 4084 so Anthony's Circle can get to work and improve the lives of our state's foster youth.

Sincerely,

Tony Hopson, Sr.  
President & CEO, Self Enhancement, Inc.