

Submitter: Noah Mayer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4137

Oregon Legislators,

My name is Noah Mayer and I am currently a junior attending South Salem High School. I am heavily involved in music both in and outside of school. I am a member student government. But I am also an IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma Candidate. I cherish the quality of my teachers and the education I am receiving in this program. With how involved I am in music and other extracurriculars, you can imagine my level of dedication as both a person and a student. My IB classes have helped me think in new perspectives in a much more critical manner than ever before. The community IB has created for me has been truly amazing, and I am so grateful for the connections I have been able to make with my classmates. Due to the rigor of IB courses along with its diploma requirements, my schedule is already full with difficult courses. My enrollment in a single orchestra class fills my eighth class period. Because of this, I am already enrolled in an online PE course, and my school's state competing symphony orchestra has to rehearse after school, putting us at a disadvantage to West Salem, our biggest competition. South is one of two schools in Salem-Keizer with an IB program, and one of two schools that has symphonies outside of the school day. Many of my classmates in orchestra are enrolled in some portion of the IB program, this is not a small percentage. My enrollment in IB makes me an ideal student for universities and scholarships, things that will help me significantly in the future. Why should my enrollment in difficult classes mean I can't graduate?

I can only hope that you understand the importance extracurriculars and educational autonomy have on a student's mental health and sense of belonging in schools. Music is my entire life outside of my education, I should not have to prioritize one aspect of my life over the other. I also shouldn't have to worry about meeting diploma requirements when I am enrolled in the hardest classes our country has to offer. Consider the negative impacts of these changes along with the positives.

Thank you,
Noah Mayer