

**MAXINE E. DEXTER, MD**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 33



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**To: Members of the House Committee on Education**

**Date: February 13, 2024**

**Subject: Support HB 4137**

Thank you Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the committee.

I am Dr. Maxine Dexter and I am honored to be the State Representative for House District 33, which includes NW & Downtown Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park. I am grateful for this opportunity today to share my strong support for HB 4137, which would allow students who complete the rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program to also meet the Oregon high school graduation requirements.

Lincoln High School, which resides in HD 33, is the only school in the Portland Public Schools district to offer exclusively the IB diploma program in place of the Advanced Placement (AP) program. I want to ensure students in IB programs are able to graduate without undue burden, but also while receiving a well rounded and adequate education. It is clear to me that students who fulfill the IB diploma requirements more than adequately satisfy the state's graduation requirements and should therefore be able to focus their efforts on the IB diploma rather than trying to fulfill its requirements and the state's requirements.

The IB diploma is recognized across the world and the US as an acceptable entry qualification for university programs, and in fact many IB diploma holders will enter university with Sophomore standing due to their completion of college-level classwork. These students should not be held back by course schedule conflicts in high school that result from having to meet two different diploma requirements. Oregon should encourage students to pursue this quality program and reduce unnecessary barriers to graduation.

I urge the committee to pass HB 4137 so that students can benefit from the IB diploma program and continue to achieve academic excellence while also meeting Oregon high school graduation requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxine Dexter", written in a cursive style.

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.

House District 33 (Northwest and Downtown Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park)