

**Tielar Horn**

360 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Central Point, OR 97502

February 21, 2025

Chair Neron

House Committee on Education

**Subject: Concern Regarding Attendance Policy for Medically Fragile Students**

Dear Chair Neron,

My name is Tielar, and I am a 15-year-old high school student who is medically fragile. Throughout my life, I have spent many days, weeks, and even months in the hospital. Despite these challenges, my education remains one of my top priorities. I have big dreams of becoming a Pediatric ICU nurse, and I take my schooling very seriously.

I am deeply concerned about the current attendance policy that would remove me from school after ten absences. If this were to happen, I would lose access to my educational materials, including online learning, and be disconnected from my peers and my classroom. This disconnection would be incredibly difficult for me, both academically and emotionally. School is not just about earning credits—it provides me with a sense of normalcy and purpose, even during my most difficult days.

I understand the importance of attendance, but in my situation, hospital stays are often unavoidable. I should not have to worry about falling into an immediate credit deficit, which would add even more stress on top of the medical challenges I already face. In many ways, my schoolwork is what keeps me grounded—it is sometimes the only thing that can take my mind off the harder things I am going through.

I am asking for consideration of an alternative approach for students like me who are committed to their education but face unique medical challenges. Whether that be a more flexible attendance policy, a virtual learning option, or another solution, I hope we can find a way to ensure that students with serious medical conditions are supported rather than penalized.

Please don't set me on a path of unnecessary stress and frustration when my primary focus should be on both my health and my education. I want the opportunity to continue learning, stay connected with my school community, and work toward my goals, even when my health temporarily takes me away from the classroom.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope we can work together to find a solution that allows students like me to succeed.

Sincerely,

**Tielar**