



Good afternoon, Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Belle Cantor, I'm the Senior Program Officer for Education at the Oregon Community Foundation.

We are neutral on HB 2007 but are optimistic about the -1 amendments and look forward to being supportive.

Through our multi-million-dollar, multi-year Out of School Time Initiative as well as a key partner for the State in administering and advising on summer and afterschool learning, we are deeply invested in summer and afterschool as an evidence-based approach to advancing student learning.

In addition to being a valuable tool for students who need further supports to master academic content, high-quality programs offering a combination of academics and enrichment can help youth build strong and trusting relationships, develop a sense of belonging, support academic engagement and achievement, and build resilience through cultural identity. National research supports this.

The HB 4082 workgroup looked to established research and engaged closely with local experts to develop a long-term, sustainable plan for summer and afterschool. High-quality programs require high-quality conditions, including use of an evidence-based approach, predictable funding streams, an efficient process, strong partnerships, a well-prepared workforce, and use of data to drive continuous improvement and shared learnings. The final report provides a blueprint for a program that would create the conditions for Oregon's students and families to thrive.

We know students benefit from a more holistic approach to learning, but they can't do it alone; to secure their learning, students need supportive environments in which the social, emotional and cognitive elements of learning are woven together tightly. Support for community-based programs, tribes, and schools are fundamental to building an education system that meets the needs of all students.

Thank you.