

Support for HB 4013

Child labor laws

February 3, 2026

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Muñoz, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Oregon PTA and the thousands of families we represent statewide, we urge your support for HB 4013, which sets a floor for child labor rules in Oregon.

States play an important role in safeguarding and strengthening child labor protections. Without protections our children are at risk of harm, injury and exploitation. Work shifts and assignments can also interfere with their learning especially in the case of our older high school students.

A comprehensive 2022 report by Human Rights Watch identified significant gaps in Oregon performance on children's rights including in the state's regulation of child labor.¹

As attempts to weaken minimal federal standards are made,^{2 3} Oregon needs to strengthen its own laws to maintain and preferably strengthen protections for minors who are working.⁴ HB 4013 is a crucial step in that direction.

We are looking forward to future conversations with the legislature about how additional changes to child labor laws could support the well-being of our children and our educational goals. For example, in regards to increasing school attendance⁵ or addressing gaps of proficiency that we are seeing statewide especially for students with a migrant background who often support their families financially.

Oregon PTA urges your support of HB 4013. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robin Roemer, VP for Legislative Advocacy, Oregon PTA

¹ [How Do US States Measure Up on Child Rights?](#)

² [Project 2025 Would Exploit Child Labor by Allowing Minors To Work in Dangerous Conditions With Fewer Protections](#)

³ [Child labor laws are under attack in states across the country: Amid increasing child labor violations, lawmakers must act to strengthen standards | Economic Policy Institute](#)

⁴ [Child labor standards: State solutions to the U.S. worker rights crisis | Economic Policy Institute](#)

⁵ 163 out of 301 high schools in Oregon report that more than 50% of their senior class are chronically absent, with some schools reporting chronic absenteeism rates for this cohort of over 80% (e.g. Phoenix HS, Metro East Web Academy in Gresham-Barlow or Roberts High School in Salem-Keizer)