



FAMILY HEALTH

A S S O C I A T E S

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February 3, 2020

To: Honorable Representative Doherty & Education Committee members

Title: Chair, House Committee on Education Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for House Bill 4140

Dear Representative Doherty and other members of House Committee on Education,

I am a family physician in Hermiston, who, in addition to practicing primary care, also have a very active concussion medicine practice. I work directly with six school districts and eight secondary schools. Since the beginning of this school year, I have cared for over 90 concussed school aged patients, and have seen over 500 concussed children and teenagers from sixteen different schools in the last 4 ½ school years. In addition to treating their students, I also provide concussion related resources and training to schools. I am also a concerned parent of seven children, three of which currently attend Umatilla High School, including one who suffered a concussion playing soccer last fall.

I support this Bill because it is important that we provide more standardization and training to school administrators and teachers in caring for students who have experienced concussive injuries. In my work, it has become very apparent that there is so much variability in how schools, and even individual teachers, treat injured students. Often, this results in increased symptoms, delayed recovery or other adverse outcomes. I believe this Bill is a step in the right direction toward helping our educators better help our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Derek T Earl, DO, CIC
President and Medical Director