



February 3, 2020

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chair Helt, Vice-Chair Alonso Leon, and Members of the House Education Committee,

Children First works with our 120 partner organizations to develop the Children's Agenda. We identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children - our children - so that all of our children have opportunities to reach their full potential.

HB 4132 will ensure that the Oregon Student Health Survey, which is the only source of statewide data on school climate and the health and well-being of Oregon students, is adequately supported. The survey currently does not have stabilized funding or the staff capacity necessary to tell educators and policymakers if investments are making a difference. This survey can be instrumental in helping track data to assess the efficacy of significant investments through the Student Success Act and other pieces of legislation, but only if it is adequately and consistently resourced.

As the Annie E. Casey Kids Count grantee for Oregon, we understand the need for accurate data to create metrics; support accountability and transparency; and drive effective decision-making. The Oregon Student Health Survey is a powerful tool to collect statewide data on student demographics, health, risk and protective factors, and behavior.

We ask for your support for HB 4132, to help ensure we have the data needed to track investments.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin
Legislative Director

Our Children Oregon

Bringing Together Children First for Oregon and the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon

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