

ANDREA SALINAS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 38



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, members of the committee,

I am here to urge your support for HB 4132. In order to work towards equity in health and education, and to properly respond to our students' needs, we must understand the scope of the issues facing our youth today. The Oregon Student Health survey provides essential data that help schools and communities focus on the things that are crucial to ensuring successful youth development. This includes access to health and dental care; social and emotional wellbeing; mental health; sexual activity and HIV/AIDS knowledge; school safety and bullying; housing security; nutrition and physical activity; vaping and substance use; healthy relationships and more.

I personally can attest that the survey's data has been used to inform policy on the macro level. Last session, I was the chief sponsor of HB 3077, which came about because the results of the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens survey revealed that student sexual harassment is a systemic problem in our schools. The survey found that 7% of Oregon eighth-graders and 6% of Oregon eleventh-graders reported experiencing unwanted sexual comments or attention in the 30 days prior to the administration of the survey. 19% of Oregon eleventh-graders reported having experienced sexual coercion at some point in their lives. These numbers were staggering and are likely just the tip of the iceberg. The survey was critical for alerting us to the severity of the problem and for giving us insight into the issue, thereby allowing the Legislature to take an important step in addressing student sexual harassment in K-12 schools by passing HB 3077.

The Oregon Student Health Survey provides the opportunity for youth to honestly and anonymously tell us what they are doing and experiencing. It provides not just a snapshot of where youth are in a given year, but it also provides longitudinal data that allows us to track trends and assess the impacts of the investments being made in student health and education. HB 4132 codifies the Oregon Student Health survey and ensures that the survey has the necessary funding and staffing to more robustly support the utilization of this critical data by local schools and communities. I urge your support of HB 4132 so that we can continue this integral investment in the health, well-being, and success of both current and future Oregon students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Salinas

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State Representative, HD-38