

February 3, 2020

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education:

**I am a student from South Eugene High School and I respectfully request the committee's support of House Bill 4132, the Oregon Student Health Survey Bill.** In order to work towards equity in health and education, we need to understand the scope of issues facing our youth and be responsive to their needs by, for instance, ensuring that our health education standards are implemented, which include LGBTQ+ inclusivity; consent and healthy relationships; sexual activity and HIV/AIDS knowledge; child abuse prevention; bullying and school safety. The Oregon Student Health Survey is the only source of statewide data on school climate and the health & well-being of Oregon students.

Oregon law requires sex education curricula that is developmentally appropriate and is LGBTQ+ inclusive, but only 35 school districts reported having the required plan of instruction for sex ed. People of all ages across all communities of Oregon have the right to the information and skills they need to protect their health and plan their futures. The Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education are doing the best they can with the limited resources they have, but we must improve upon this survey to support communities across Oregon more fully.

It's important to me that Oregon's public schools have access to comprehensive, age-appropriate, and LGBTQ+ inclusive sexual health education, because young people desperately need access to information and resources that include consent and healthy relationships. Additionally, sex education is widely supported by parents and Americans, and by the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I was lucky enough to have access to an after school program called Our Whole Lives that covered comprehensive, medically accurate, and LGBTQ+ sexual health education. Unfortunately, many kids lack the time or willing parents to sign them and take them to a program such as this. Good sexual health education should not be available only to the students who have the time, resources, and money available to do so.

Please codify and fund the Oregon Student Health Survey and provide the critical resources necessary to help schools and communities make data-informed decisions about the health and well-being of their students now and for years to come.

Sincerely,

Isabelle McNall  
Eugene, Oregon