



Statement by David R. Kracke to the Senate Committee on Education in Support of HB 4140, Pertaining to a Student's Return to School after a Brain Injury. Dated: February 17, 2020.

Dear Oregon Senate Committee on Education;

As Oregon's Brain Injury Advocate Coordinator, I present this statement in support of HB 4140 (2020). This important legislation continues Oregon's leadership in the area of youth brain injury awareness and action by ensuring that academic, social and behavioral accommodations will be available to our students who return to school after sustaining a concussion or other mild traumatic brain injury.

The form contemplated in this legislation will set forth a series of easily implemented and necessary accommodations that are designed to help ease the concussed student back into the rigors of their academic life. Further, the form will create an action plan for the teachers to use when faced with the all too common situation in which a student returns to school after a brain injury and when that student is most vulnerable to falling behind their normal academic trajectory.

Today, when a student returns to school after a brain injury, that student's teachers, despite their best intentions, may not have any idea what accommodations are best suited to easing that student back into his or her school routine. As a result, appropriate accommodations likely will not be identified or implemented often with detrimental academic, social and behavioral outcomes for the student.

This bill takes a necessary step in changing the current status quo. No longer will teachers need to question themselves about the necessity of or type of accommodations available when a student returns to school after a brain injury. Instead, that information will be available to the teachers in clear and concise language, and once implemented, the accommodations will help ensure that the student's academic recovery is as seamless as possible. For these reasons, I urge you to support this meaningful legislation. Thank you.

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