



Teresa Alonso Leon
State Representative

Director Colt Gill, Chair Kimberly Howard, and members of the State Board of Education,

As Chair of the House Education Committee, I am proud to be able to facilitate a public hearing and work session on HB 2060. One aspect of this bill authorizes the State Board of Education to establish targets for student mental and behavioral health needs. To ensure that community organizations, associations, school counselors, and student mental and behavioral health experts have a seat at the table, I ask that you commit to community engagement in your rulemaking processes.

As the Joint Committee on Student Success (JCSS) traveled across the state, they heard from students, parents and districts about the need to focus on student mental and behavioral health and to direct more funds to underrepresented students in an intentional way. These two areas of focus inspired the Student Investment Account (SIA).

Throughout the 2021 legislative session, I have supported HB 2060 as I believe in the promise of the Student Success Act to address students' mental and behavioral health needs. In the first year of implementation, ODE consistently received feedback and requests from districts and communities that there be some kind of optional measure or avenue to demonstrate progress from their investments in student mental and behavioral health. HB 2060, sections 2 & 3 puts this into writing.

HB 2060 section 2 does not require school districts to use the measurement tool or target, it just allows the State Board of Education, through community engagement, to establish **optional** targets for student mental and behavioral health needs for the purposes of the SIA that the districts may decide to use. School districts would still have **local control and autonomy** to decide how to invest their SIA funds within the allowable uses and how to report their progress in this dimension. While grant recipients are focused on student mental and behavioral health outcomes, starting a conversation on how to develop a statewide framework for these targets will allow all grant recipients to have a better idea of what expectations and goal setting could look like.

The proposed change under HB 2060 section 2 provides school districts with a tool to show progress on mental and social-emotional health. I believe this is critical as it directly responds to

feedback the JCSS received during their travels. Policy makers, school districts and communities need to help districts develop this tool.

While I am committed to supporting the work that has been presented to the Education Committee as a final product, I want to address some concerns that I want to clarify in the event that the intent of this language ever needs review. The intent of HB 2060 is to support school districts as they work to improve. This includes their focus on student mental and behavioral health. However, it is important that this bill should not penalize a school when it is struggling to meet goals, but instead, provide support. I want it to emphasize that the local metrics and State School Board Metrics will be optional with regards to student mental and behavioral health. I strongly recommend that both local and State School board processes to determine performance growth targets be done in consultation with subject area experts.

As part of developing these optional targets, I ask you to commit to rigorous and sincere community engagement in your rulemaking processes, making space at the table for all, including community organizations, associations, school counselors, and student mental and behavioral health experts. I want to encourage local processes to focus on local inputs and data related to mental and behavioral health when making a determination for each district. This should lead to rules that make sense for our students and the people responsible for educating them.

HB 2060 is an important bill that can build on the Student Success Act's commitment to Oregon students. Teachers, families, students, and communities want to have a focus on student mental and behavioral health. As we follow-through with this work and ensure that HB 2060 can be successfully implemented, please commit to comprehensive community engagement in the rulemaking process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Alonso Leon', written in a cursive style.

Teresa Alonso Leon