



Teresa Alonso Leon
State Representative

May 4, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and Members of the House Rules Committee,

My name is Teresa Alonso Leon and I am the Representative for House District 22 which incorporates Woodburn through the north part of Salem and Chair of the House Education Committee. I am writing in support of HB 2060 and encourage the Committee to adopt the -2 and -3 amendments.

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 the SSA implementation, ODE consistently received requests from districts and communities for some kind of optional measure to demonstrate progress from their investments in student mental and behavioral health. Sections 2 and 3 of this bill put this into writing.

From start to finish, the Oregon Department of Education consulted with a variety of partners, including doing intentional work with communities of color, to develop and revise this concept. While HB 2060 remained in the House Education Committee, I worked closely with ODE and OEA to reach an agreement about keeping sections 2 and 3 of the bill intact. I also sent a letter to the State Board of Education, asking for them to commit to community engagement throughout the rulemaking process.

The intent of HB 2060 is to create optional performance growth targets, not to penalize school districts but to provide them with tools to improve over time in addressing students' mental and behavioral health needs. 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 Student Investment Account (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 area. 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.

HB 2060 is an important bill that can fulfill 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 is successfully implemented, join me in asking the State Board of Education to commit to comprehensive community engagement in the rulemaking process. Again, I urge you to adopt the -2 and -3 amendments and to vote yes on HB 2060. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Alonso Leon', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Teresa Alonso Leon
State Representative, HD 22
Chair, House Education Committee