

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



Testimony in Support of HB 4029

February 1, 2022

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the House Education Committee,

I write to support [HB 4029](#), with the -3 amendment, which will ensure professional training for school boards and superintendents in educational equity and board governance. This bill is about serving all students to thrive by connecting board members and superintendents to a deeper understanding of their leadership role.

We must acknowledge that there is work to do to attract and retain high-caliber leaders. A [recent study](#) by COSA revealed declining rates of female school superintendents and difficulty attracting and retaining superintendents of color. School districts and board members have a great responsibility to their district and the students they serve. Professional training and emphasis on partnership, growth, and participation are just a few things we can do to support current and future education leaders to do their job well.

By ensuring education providers conduct self-assessments, develop unique professional learning plans for district leaders, and then review and revise those plans with support from an Oregon Department of Education advisory group, we also ensure greater leadership stability in our education system. Many districts are already engaging in similar goal-setting and review processes. This bill ensures that all boards will have the resources needed to be able to offer relevant training that builds partnerships, an understanding of expectations, responsive leadership skills, and overall functionality.

Throughout the pandemic, superintendents and school board members have played a critical role in creating a safe learning environment for students as well as supporting student success. School boards across the state collectively oversee billions of Oregon dollars and make local decisions that impact administration, educators, staff, and students. **It is important that we have training available to ensure best practices and effective governance.**

HB 4029 will stabilize educational leadership through meaningful professional training to support best practices and equitable decision-making to meet the needs of all students. I urge support and passage of HB 4029 (-3).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Courtney Neron