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On Behalf Of: REAP Inc
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4099

House Bill 3363 now known as HB 4099

Joint Statement on HB4099 From Beaverton High School REAP Students

Apart from youth directly being represented in the legislative process, there are several other entry points for increasing their access to the legislature. Governments often engage with civil society through committee hearings. Specific committees and multi-party groups either focused on youth or deliberating issues impacting youth could conduct public consultations and invite youth to share their views. Helping youth have a focused impact can entail capacity development for youth, including on advocacy and public speaking. Young leaders need help to increase their leverage and contribute to shifts in cultural norms so that youth leadership capacities are more widely recognized. Involving young people in law making observation is an effective way to increase youth engagement and build youth capabilities in the legislative process. Many young people have the necessary technical skills and feel comfortable using new technology to monitor the legislative processes.

? Young people are well-placed to pay extra attention to the participation of young people during special sessions. This means they can provide invaluable support in collecting age-specific information and reporting on youth-specific challenges

? Youth observers are likely to have useful influence in convincing other young people to join the process, thereby having a positive impact on that age group's turnout

. Integrating youth into organizations early and building their administrative skills may assist them to move up within leadership roles that directly impact students. There must be a system to develop a strategic framework for youth engagement, and this bill can help aid in that process by selecting youth delegates to be on councils and hearings. These students can be selected in schools and/or universities, and report back to their peers. There needs to be a process to tell our story and integrate the youth perspectives into the work of all policies and processes. Just as are now more than ever mainstreaming gender equality, they can follow this same approach with a youth perspective. Doing so requires the allocation of a proportion of all relevant legislative budgets to youth inclusion.

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