



HB 2656 - Elevate Student Voice Act

Better data collection is needed statewide.

Student Voice, School Quality and Accountability Indicators are key!

Testimony in support of HB2656 presented to the Oregon House Education Committee on February 8, 2023 Hearing from Oregon PTA

To: Chairperson Neron, Vice Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the Committee.

I am Scott Overton, the chairperson of the Oregon PTA Health and Wellness Committee and I would like to testify in support of HB 2656. As the Oregon PTA representative to the Wellness in School Environment workgroup (WISE) and the Oregon Healthy Schools support group for the Oregon Department of Education, I have spent years supporting student health and wellness initiatives and to ensure that every Oregon child is supported to achieve their full potential.

With the recent investments by Oregon and the federal government in student health and wellness and the proposed continued resources being directed in this area, the need to have a tool to measure the success of these interventions has never been more important. Currently we have two very good tools to provide the data we need to both determine where resources should be directed and how those interventions have actually impacted student health and wellness outcomes. These tools are the student educational equity development (SEED) Survey and the Student Health Survey.

HB 2656 would require that all students in Oregon and all school districts in Oregon administer these surveys so that the data needed to evaluate the success of these important investments as well as where to direct future resources. Currently with less than full participation in these surveys, the decisions will be swayed toward those students and districts which do participate and are most likely the districts that are providing more resources to student health and wellness issues.

“Currently, we see participation numbers in the SEED survey at 68,000 and Student Health Survey at approximately 41,000, with about 65 out of the 197 school districts participating. Approximately a 32% participation rate, respectively.”

I urge you to pass HB 2656 out of committee and will support the implementation of these surveys to our fullest abilities through our members and local units.



Respectfully submitted,

Scott Overton, Chair, Oregon PTA Health & Wellness Committee

Oregon PTA is Oregon's oldest and largest children's advocacy organization.