

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 26



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Testimony in Support of HB 3037**

February 22, 2023

Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the House Committee on Education,

Outdoor School is an incredibly memorable experience for students who participate and can be transformational. Many Oregonians remember their time as a student or as a counselor and my hope is that we can help support the program to serve all Oregon students more equitably through a data informed response to outreach and inclusivity.

The Outdoor School Program through M99 funding has been able to expand access across the state, allowing a significant majority of eligible students (5th and 6th graders) to attend. Progress has been made to expand student participation while also increasing ADA accessible facilities, providing student supports related to special education and cultural responsiveness, translation services and parental outreach and education. While progress has been made, more needs to be done to ensure all 5th and 6th graders are able to participate in the Outdoor School Program. Currently, OSU Extension only has data on the number of students, schools and school districts that attend outdoor school through end-of-year reporting, but we do not have access to demographic data related to students who are or are not participating.

**HB 3037** proposes adding a yes/no question regarding Outdoor School participation to the list of data points currently collected on students, with the goal of the Oregon Department of Education sharing the data (with identifying information removed) with OSU Extension. The goal of this legislation is to determine which students are not attending the Outdoor School Program and supports intentional, data-informed, equity and outreach work.

With the information provided, the program can determine what additional policies and practices need to be in place to truly make the program available to ALL of Oregon's 5th or 6th graders.

**I urge your support for HB 3037.**

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

House District 26  
Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,  
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain