

Submitter: Russell Kautz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3068

HB3068 awards an 11th or 12th grader who obtains a GED with a high school diploma, providing an alternative pathway for students who may face challenges that prevent them from finishing high school in the traditional way. I've known several young men in the Oregon Army National Guard who have taken and passed the GED to receive the equivalent of a high school diploma; however, the stigma of not having received a high school diploma has major repercussions in the way the community perceives it's worth. By awarding a high school diploma to students who obtain a GED, HB3068 will help these students overcome the stigma associated with not having a high school diploma and create new opportunities, including access to higher education, better-paying jobs, and more fulfilling careers. Passing HB3068 will provide an important recognition of these students' achievements and will benefit the students who earn the diploma, the communities in which they live, and the state as a whole. A more educated and prosperous workforce will reduce poverty and improve public health and safety. This Bill is a win for everyone involved.