

Submitter: Butch Nasser
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HCR18

I am writing today in support of the passage of HCR 18. Classroom Law Project (CLP) has upheld an essential mission for the last 40 years: to provide civics education, a fundamental factor to ensure the preservation of our democracy. CLP's programs provide to thousands of Oregonians an opportunity to explore and learn about their system of government in a manner that is accessible to all. Concurrently, CLP encourages students to seek paths towards inspiring and empowering not only themselves, but their local communities, and their government at large.

As an individual who was primarily influenced by CLP's Mock Trial Program, I witnessed how CLP offered glimpses into environments which would otherwise have been inaccessible to disadvantaged students in a public high school. CLP provides invaluable resources to teachers, schools, and the education system, and ensures that all students have access to such resources, beyond the natural barriers they may otherwise face. Likewise, CLP connects students with professional advisors and role models from which students can be inspired to become a larger stakeholder in their local communities and governments.

I must emphasize that CLP's acts to support and encourage students leave a permanent impact on each participant: my experience with Mock Trial heightened my quick-thinking skills, public speaking capabilities, and self-confidence, altering my personal and public image of myself. Beyond that, my involvement inspired me to push myself, and reach for greater heights than I had imagined prior. CLP's teachings allowed me to become more comfortable while advocating for my beliefs, and the motivation instilled upon me by CLP's resources, opportunities, and experiences are primary contributing factors to not only my outlook on life today, but my future goals as a student who intends to take larger strides towards democratic participation in the future.

Please give HCR 18 a yes vote and continue support for civics education in Oregon. Thank you.