

LISA REYNOLDS, MD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District 34



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 4077

House Committee on Education

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

Thank you for hearing HB 4077. Picture yourself working in a school to support your family and your students. And then imagine that you're injured at work - a doctor tells you to take a day or two off while you recover, and then you can return to your job. That's hard enough - but now imagine that it happens again. And again. And again. And when you look for help, it's difficult to find. Why? Because the state does not have any official record of your injuries. You're exhausted, you're injured, and your stress is piling up - but on paper, nothing went wrong.

Our school employees deserve far better than this. As a physician, I know that repeated traumatic injuries can have detrimental effects on someone's health over time, beyond the trauma of the injuries themselves. This can lead to physical health complications, but can also lead to immense psychological stress. This stress can become toxic, in which case the prolonged stress literally starts taking a physical toll on the person's body, and the cycle continues.

We need to do everything we can to fix this. A good place to start is by tracking these injuries through standardized, statewide incident reporting. School employees quite literally shape Oregon's future, and should feel safe, and supported by us in doing so. I believe that HB 4077 will make a positive difference for these folks who have dedicated their careers to nurturing Oregon's youngest residents.

Thank you again for hearing this bill, and I strongly urge its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Lisa Reynolds, MD