

BEN BOWMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District 25



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill 4137 Testimony

Chair Neron and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Ben Bowman, and I am the state representative for House District 25. I write in support of HB4137.

Though I took some IB classes in high school, I was not a full IB student. Two high schools in my district offer the IB program. There are students in schools across our state engaged in this rigorous academic program. Before I came to the legislature, I worked in education policy and served on a school board. I can tell you firsthand that this program sets students up for academic success at the postsecondary level, which is why colleges around the world recognize the success and rigor of this program. Many even offer scholarships and college credit to students who complete the program.

At the core of this bill is the challenge for students who must add in extra class time to fulfill IB while also getting their Oregon high school diploma. The current structure means students may need to add in class before the school day or over the summer to complete IB requirements. This disadvantages students who work, take care of family members or have other restrictions on their time.

I urge your support of HB 4137. Thank you.