

To: House Committee on Education
From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon
Re: School Board Transparency (SB 1502 A)
Date: February 26, 2024

Common Cause

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We are 1.5 million Americans – including tens of thousands of Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

Support for HB 4019

Common Cause Oregon supports SB 1502 A – requiring public school boards to stream and post their meetings online and to allow for remote participation.

Our democracy is stronger when public meetings are transparent and accessible to as many people as possible. That holds true for public school board meetings. At a time when local school boards and college boards are increasingly engaged in controversial decisions, it's even more important than ever. This is a straightforward bill, codifying practices already adopted by many schools and public agencies during COVID, and those required by the Federal Americans with Disability Act. It continues to move our democracy in the right direction – promoting transparency, access, and equity.