

Representative Susan McLain

House District 29



January 28, 2025

RE: Support for House Bill 2140 in the House Committee on Education

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you as the former chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education and a current member of that committee to express my strong support for **House Bill 2140** and the Governor's work to improve the State School Fund (SSF) Current Service Level (CSL) distribution calculations.

I commend Governor Kotek for her commitment to reviewing and updating the methodology used to fund public schools in Oregon. Members of the Governor's staff worked closely with the Legislature's Education policy and budget chairs and with Education stakeholders, teachers, classified staff, superintendents, school board members, and school business managers around the state to find ways to improve the SSF CSL methodology and ensure a more predictable funding model for our schools. The process was transparent and inclusive, and the changes outlined in House Bill 2140 are a product of that dialogue.

Since the CSL generates a cost estimate for continuing programs, services, and staff paid through the State School Fund, HB 2140 provides a pragmatic approach to budgeting by ensuring that the CSL calculation aligns with how funds are used annually by school districts. The shift in distribution from 50% in the first year and 50% in the second year to 49% and 51%, respectively, meant over \$217 million more for the CSL calculation this year, and I urge you to vote to make this change permanent. HB 2140 will not only increase the allocation of funds school districts receive from the CSL calculation but will allow them to improve their budgeting process for each school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss HB 2140 in more detail. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan McLain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "L".

Representative Susan McLain