

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE

March 18th, 2025

House Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 3007 -2

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

My name is Deb Patterson, and I am the State Senator for District 10, which includes South Salem, West Salem, Monmouth, and Independence. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3007 -2. This critical legislation ensures that Oregon students recovering from concussions receive the accommodations necessary for a safe and successful return to learning.

Brain injuries can have profound short-term and long-term impacts on a student's ability to learn and function in an academic setting. Unlike a broken bone, which has visible indicators of healing, brain injuries require individualized and structured support to avoid prolonged or even permanent cognitive difficulties. HB 3007 -2 builds upon the foundation set by HB 4140 (2020) and provides the structure to ensure students receive the accommodations necessary for a full and effective recovery.

This legislation is the product of 18 months of work by a task force convened by the Oregon Health Authority, including experts in education, medicine, and brain injury research. Their collective knowledge has shaped HB 3007 -2 into a robust and evidence-based policy designed to support students in their return to academic life while minimizing the risk of further harm.

HB 3007 -2 tells the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop a sample form illustrating how schools can provide accommodations for students recovering from brain injuries while allowing flexibility for individual school districts to tailor their approach. It also requires ODE to include written instructions for schools on effectively implementing necessary

accommodations. The bill provides a structured approach for public education providers to create and apply an Immediate and Temporary Accommodation Plan (ITAP) for affected students, ensuring timely and appropriate support.

HB 3007 -2 creates a balanced approach, protecting students' health while maintaining their access to education. HB 3007 -2 will help prevent long-term academic and cognitive setbacks, ensuring that students receive the support they need to heal fully before resuming pre-injury academic and physical activity levels.

I urge this committee to pass HB 3007 -2 and uphold Oregon's commitment to student health, safety, and academic success. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Deb Patterson