

Submitter: Melissa McCart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3007
Melissa McCart, Ed.D. in support of House Bill 3007

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education:

I'm writing to communicate my strong support of HB 3007.

My name is Melissa McCart. I previously served as Director of the Oregon TBI Teams and currently serve as Director of the Center on Brain Injury Research and Training at the University of Oregon. In that role, I advocate for children with brain injuries, train educators to work effectively with these students, and support parents navigating the challenges associated with brain injury. Additionally, I conduct research on brain injury and the support systems for children, families, and adults affected by this condition. I am a member of several national organizations dedicated to brain injury and co-lead the National Collaborative on Childhood Brain Injury for the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators.

The insufficient support provided to students recovering from brain injuries is a significant national crisis. Oregon could set a national precedent if HB 3007 is enacted. This legislation would ensure that schools deliver essential, person-centered accommodations to address the academic, behavioral, emotional, physical, and social needs of these students.

I support HB 3007 because it enhances the opportunity for students who have sustained a brain injury to receive the immediate assistance they urgently need. The provisions in this bill would help mitigate the risk of long-term negative outcomes associated with brain injuries. Based on my extensive experience working with students affected by brain injuries, I firmly believe that this legislation would significantly improve the educational experience for Oregon's students with brain injuries.

For the past 15 years I have worked with schools trying to support them in making the directives of HB 3007 with mixed success. I am in total support of HB 3007 because it will require schools to give students the accommodations and supports that they need.

Please support HB 3007 so that these students can continue their intended life trajectories without interruption.

Thank you.

Melissa McCart, Ed.D.

Director, Center on Brain Injury Research and Training
University of Oregon