



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 17, 2025

TO: Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire,
and Members of the House Committee on Education

FROM: Andrea Bateman, MD, FAAP
Oregon Pediatric Society Board Member

SUBJECT: **Testimony in Support of HB 3007: School Accommodations for
Students with a Brain Injury**

My name is Andrea Bateman, and I am a pediatrician providing healthcare at an Oregon high school's School Based Health Center. I am writing to voice my strong support for HB3007, which would require the implementation of immediate and temporary accommodations for students recovering from concussions.

Concussions are a common injury among children and teens, particularly in youth sports, despite ongoing efforts to reduce their incidence. Research clearly shows that students recovering from concussions need brain rest to optimize healing. However, it is equally critical that they return to school in a timely manner with the necessary support.

Extended absences from school can lead to students falling behind in their coursework, which increases stress, anxiety, and depression—conditions that are already associated with concussions. Additionally, students recovering at home often rely on screen time for entertainment, which can have adverse effects and actually prolong recovery.

The ITAP (Immediate Temporary Academic Plan) form is a simple, effective tool that allows parents and students to request accommodations that support a student's return to school and learning after a concussion. However, in my three years of practice in Oregon, I have only been asked to complete this form a handful of times—indicating that it is drastically underutilized.

While I am generally cautious about increasing mandates on schools, I firmly believe that requiring schools to provide temporary accommodations for students with concussions will ensure a smoother and faster transition back to the classroom. This will ultimately promote students' academic success while also prioritizing their health and recovery.

I urge your support for HB3007 to help Oregon students receive the accommodations they need to heal and succeed. Thank you for your consideration.