

Submitter: Greta West

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3007

Statement of (Your Name) 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.

HB 3007 will help students who are recovering from brain injuries by requiring schools to provide appropriate, person-centered, academic, behavioral, social, emotional, and physical accommodations to ensure that the student has the best possible recovery. For several years, I was a member of the TBI (traumatic brain injury) team at Portland Public Schools. As funding has been cut and priorities shifted, this fully volunteer team was dissolved. In my career as a Speech Language Pathologist, I have supported many students with brain injuries. They deserve our attention and all the resources we can offer.

No student ever wants to suffer a brain injury, but many still do. During their recovery, they will struggle with their classwork, their social interactions, their mental and behavioral health, and with physical pain. The last thing a school should do is make it harder for the student to recover.

HB 3007 requires a school to act in the best interest of the student, and give them the accommodations they need during their brain injury recovery. If, because of their brain injury, they need help with classwork, or homework, or with their friends, the school should be providing that help. If they need physical accommodation in their classrooms because of the lights, or the noises, or whatever, they should get those accommodations, as well. HB 3007 will help ensure that students recovering from brain injuries get the accommodations they need.

Please support HB 3007. Thank you.

Signed,

Greta West