

Submitter: Robin Stoeber

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3007

Statement of Robin Stoeber 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 support comes from a place of personal and professional interest. As a school psychologist and administrator in both Oregon and California, within my career, I have championed work around traumatic brain injury, concussion management, and return to academics and play. I have led district TBI teams and have served as a regional TBI liaison. It is an area I am very passionate about, and am proud to be part of the work around building awareness as a means of not only intervention but prevention.

On a personal level, I am a mother to 5 children who have played sports through collegiate level Division 1 athletics. Across all five of my children I have had the opportunity to be able to advocate for best practices of returning to academics and play. Many times I found myself in a situation where there was an awareness deficit across some schools and even with some coaches. I also unfortunately have one of my children who sustained multiple head injuries in a short period of time that ultimately have resulted in long term medical and health complications. Prior to the injuries he had college football commitment offers, and the injuries changed his educational trajectory and career aspirations. While he is nearly six years removed from his injuries, he continues to be impacted from his injury.

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.

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. It will also ensure that schools and districts continue to build awareness, appropriately support and increase capacity of all staff to support students who sustain head injuries.

Please support HB 3007.

Thank you.

Signed,

Robin Stoeber