

I once broke my collar bone. My school accommodated my needs for extra time, notes, peer assistance, classroom seating/arrangement, because they could see my injury on the outside. It was not required, but it was a visible need so they made accommodations for me.

I broke my brain 5 times during high school, I had 5 concussions, each identified and requests were made by doctors, athletic trainers, TBI specialists, teachers, me and my parents to put temporary accommodations in place to allow my brain to heal and so that I would not fall behind **while** my brain healed.

There was/is legislation in place in the form of House Bill 4140 that says the school district may put accommodations in place for my concussion healing, but because it was “may” and they could not see my injury I was not allowed to have accommodations until after the fifth concussion.

At that point it was almost too late for me to be able to meet graduation requirements, and was already too late to save my college scholarships, admittance to colleges, graduate with honors, complete my full four years of Spanish, save me from social isolation. It was too late to save so many aspects of my education and life goals.

If the school district had been required to make the accommodations my specialist and I knew I needed, my life today might be very different. My memories of high school would not be jaded or evoke feelings of sadness and anger.

What changed? How did I end up finally getting accommodations? My family asked for a 504 plan to accommodate my needs because I was not healing.

How was that different from the immediate temporary accommodations plan I needed? If I had been immediately accommodated instead of years later, I would not have fallen behind. It has legal requirements and procedures built in for the school staff to follow. It is a process that has legal requirements that a school must follow.

The students of Oregon need something legally required in between for accommodations after a concussion. This would allow students to heal and stay academically on track.

I, and people like me, need the Oregon Legislature to make that needed change. I needed House Bill 4140 language of "MAY accommodate": to be House Bill 3007 language that states that the district "SHALL accommodate" me.

While it is too late for this wording to change my educational outcome, I stand before you asking that you make this important change for the students coming after me. I do not ever want another student in our school system to needlessly fail, falter, or fall behind like I did. For these reasons, I ask you to support HB 3007. Thank you.