

Post Office Box 2824  
Sunriver, Oregon 97707  
March 21, 2025

RE: Endorsement for Oregon HB3004

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for House Bill 3004, a crucial piece of legislation that promises to bring meaningful improvements to all of our communities. This bill addresses essential needs and provides comprehensive solutions that will benefit a wide range of Oregonians.

House Bill 3004 is an initiative that stands to make significant positive changes by providing youth with resources to impede violence statewide perpetuated by youth at an increasing rate. This measure will involve the utilization of community-based organizations and private ventures to facilitate services that can provide:

- Crisis intervention
- De-escalation strategies
- Conflict resolution and mediation
- Violence and crime prevention
- Connecting students with mentors and conflict resolution skills
- Positively impact school dropout rates

Nobel Peace Prize award-winner Desmond Tutu is known to have said: "There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in." The CDC's (Centers for Disease Control) Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES) provides three decades' worth of ongoing information on how early life situations of abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction impact developing young Americans by triggering self-medication, leading to addictions, violent outbursts, and mental illnesses costing the public millions of dollars for the health care, social services, and criminal justice systems. If not impeded, these conditions continue throughout adult life,

leading to the early demise of the individual. This study has been replicated worldwide with similar results. Robert Ross from the University of Ottawa is known to have pointed out that youthful offenders often do the first thing that comes to their minds because that is all that comes to their minds. Youthful offenders have a limited pro-social life skill base, which traditional educational efforts have been unable to address successfully.

This bill proposes increased community involvement with public schools, ensuring our children receive the high-quality education they deserve. By allocating resources to underfunded schools, we can bridge the gap in educational disparities and provide every child with an equal opportunity to succeed.

House Bill 3004 is set to expand healthcare access to underserved communities. By increasing funding for local clinics and healthcare services, more Oregonians will receive the medical attention they need. This is especially important in rural areas where healthcare options are often limited.

Additionally, House Bill 3004 aims to stimulate economic growth by supporting small businesses, community-based organizations, and job creation. This legislation will help local entities thrive and create employment opportunities for residents by providing grants and incentives, thereby boosting the state's economy.

In conclusion, House Bill 3004 offers a supportive approach to addressing some of our great state's most pressing issues. It is a forward-thinking piece of legislation that will have long-lasting benefits for all Oregonians. I strongly urge you to support this bill and vote in its favor.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daren A. vom Steeg  
Oregon Educator (Retired)  
[vomsteeg@bendnet.com](mailto:vomsteeg@bendnet.com)  
541-598-7238