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April 7, 2025

Chair Lew Frederick  
Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber  
Members of the Senate Education Committee

**RE: SB 141 – Renewing Oregon's K-12 Accountability System**

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

As the Executive Director at Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO), I am honored to offer enthusiastic support for SB 141 and the -4 amendments. FBO is a partnership of five major Oregon philanthropic organizations committed to ensuring Oregon's systems support every child to learn, grow, and thrive.

Across our state, Oregonians believe that a strong public education is key to building a strong economy, healthy communities, and a secure future. Decades of research on high-performing school systems is clear: A successful K-12 public school system requires sufficient and stable investment and strong and actionable plans for accountability and improvement.

SB 141 -4 builds on the foundation of the Student Success Act of 2019 to create a more robust system of continuous improvement and accountability for K-12 schools. This bill gives the state clear authority and effective tools to diligently monitor school districts' progress, celebrate and reinforce success, and ultimately step in with support and direction when needed. To ensure districts and the Oregon Department of Education can focus their energies on making long overdue progress for our children, this bill—and administrative efforts already underway—will streamline, prioritize, and remove redundancy across multiple programs, reports, and standards.

Through hours of collaborative discussion across stakeholders, Governor Tina Kotek, ODE Director Charlene Williams, and their teams have listened, incorporated feedback, and engaged with leading research. The result is an approach to accountability that honors local context, wisdom, and decision-making while providing a clear statewide system of clear expectations, data, supports, and interventions.

FBO, its member foundations, and the many coalition partners working to improve education outcomes for our state's most underserved students are standing in partnership with the Legislature, Governor and ODE on this critically important work.

We urge the committee to move this critical legislation forward today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Whitney Grubbs'.

Whitney Grubbs  
Executive Director  
Foundations for a Better Oregon