

Submitter: Daniel Coyle
On Behalf Of: Coyle Outside and 39 partner public schools
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4112

Thanks for the time you are taking to review these submissions.

Regarding HB 4112 I am representing my organization, a provider of Outdoor School, and advocating on behalf of the 39 schools we provide programs for. We work with over 4000 students each year currently. My key points that are maybe less commonly highlighted are below. That said, I am aligned with Friend's of Outdoor School and their lobbying to support Senator Hudson's bill.

Oregon is the ONLY state that funds Outdoor School for all public schoolers. This makes Oregon a leader in experiential education and its innovation. The country looks to Oregon as an example. There are many other places where Oregon Public School academic rankings are not what we all want them to be. Where we ARE a leader and in such a distinct way we need to reinforce that strength and keep attention on Oregon for this pioneering effort to evolve education.

Measure 99 was/is a result of a direct democracy process and its funds are not from the tax base or from Federal sources. From this fundamental standpoint I believe voter approved initiatives deserve a greater degree of protection. The citizens have spoken and they did this so as to NOT need to rely on their representatives for this resource.

The recent executive action by the Governor banning cell phones in schools is a sign of the same important trend that had measure 99 pass. Our organizations mission is "The Restoration and Preservation of Outdoor Childhood" and we see the many social and academic and cultural trends that have lead to kids being outside less and on screens more. Its critical to the future of our state that we continue to lead the way in reversing some of these uninvited trends.

Funding cuts slow the momentum that has been created by what is still a new experiment in education. These cuts put schools and providers into fiscal survival mode rather than taking advantage of the newness and vast opportunities Measure 99 has opened up.

Thanks for your consideration.