



To: Senate Education Committee

Re: SB 4

Date: May 3, 2017

Good afternoon Chair Doherty and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Christina Bodamer and I am the Oregon Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association here today as the chair of the Physical Education for All Kids Coalition, in support of Senate Bill 4.

The Physical Education for All Kids, or PEAK, Coalition is comprised of community-based organizations, advocates, parents, educators, and health professionals who for the last decade have been and continue to be deeply committed to improving PE and wellness in Oregon schools.

PE not only provides students an opportunity for physical activity in their school day, it teaches students the basics of physical literacy and how to integrate exercise into their lives to establish a lifetime of healthy living.

Children who are more active learn more effectively and achieve more academically, making PE an integral part of developing the “whole” child for success in social settings and the learning environment.

Despite our best intentions in passing HB 3141 in 2007, the last ten years presented numerous challenges to our education system that have prevented most schools from taking the necessary steps to be prepared to provide PE at its now mandatory levels. Knowing that we were rapidly approaching the implementation deadline, the PE for All Kids Coalition agreed to sit down with the education lobby to discuss the future of PE in Oregon, and have done for the last 9 months diligently. The outcome of those discussed is outlined in SB 4 and the -2 amendments.



Many challenging concessions were made over the last 9 months, but all parties remained at the table. Our schools hold an evidence-based opportunity to increase physical activity among youth, as children are more likely to get the recommended amount of physical education if they live in states, like Oregon, with policies that mandate such activities.

Our expectation now is, that with the passage of SB 4 with the -2 amendments, Oregon will finally be on a path to providing meaningful, standards based physical education for our elementary and middle school students.

Thank you and I'm happy to answer and questions.