

From the Offices of Representative Courtney Neron, Representative Emily McIntire, Representative Court Boice

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Oregon Legislature Passes Bill to Support Students Recovering from Brain Injuries

**Salem, Ore.** — The Oregon House passed <u>HB 3007A</u> with bipartisan support, a bill aimed at ensuring students recovering from brain injuries, including concussions, receive the accommodations necessary for a safe and effective return to school. The legislation is the result of an 18-month collaboration led by the Oregon Health Authority, educators, medical professionals, and brain injury survivors, all working together to create a comprehensive, evidence-based framework for student recovery.

Advances in neuroscience and pediatric medicine have shown us that early, tailored support makes a difference in outcomes

"Just as we would never ask a student with a broken leg to run before recovering, we can't expect a student with a concussion to fully engage in academic tasks until they are ready. Without structured support, a temporary injury can lead to long-term cognitive and academic setbacks," said chief sponsor and chair of the House Education Committee, **Representative Courtney Neron (D-Wilsonville, Sherwood, King City, Tigard).** "If we want to give our students the best chance at full recovery — academically, emotionally, and physically — then our school systems must reflect the latest neuroscience. This bill ensures we do just that."

HB 3007A builds on the foundation established by <u>HB 4140 in 2020</u> and addresses essential gaps in how schools support students with brain injuries. The bill mandates that public education providers develop an Immediate and Temporary Accommodations Plan (ITAP) for any student diagnosed with a concussion or other brain injury. This ensures that students are given the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support they need to recover while maintaining their educational progress.

"When a student suffers a brain injury, time is critical — not just for their recovery, but for ensuring they aren't left behind academically," said **Representative Emily McIntire** (**R-Eagle Point**), a chief co-sponsor of the bill. "This bill holds our public education system accountable by requiring reasonable, immediate, and temporary accommodations. Oregon's students deserve nothing less."

With passage of this bill, schools will begin the temporary accommodations process when they receive written notice that a student has been diagnosed with a brain injury. Schools will assess the need for restrictions on physical activity and identify academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports based on the student's symptoms. These accommodations must be shared with all relevant staff and reviewed at least every two months to ensure they continue to meet the student's recovery needs.

"So much work went into this effort, and the advancements we're seeing in science are nothing short of heartwarming," said **Representative Court Boice (R-Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties),** a co-sponsor of the bill. "Our kids are our greatest resource, and protecting and helping them is an absolute privilege."

David Kracke, Oregon's Brain Injury Advocate Coordinator shared, "This bill represents national best practices for students recovering from concussions and other brain injuries." Additionally, in her testimony, Melissa McCart, Director of the Center on Brain Injury Research and Training at the University of Oregon stated that our state is poised to "set a national precedent if HB 3007 is enacted."

HB 3007A passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support and now moves to the Senate for consideration.