



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon House Democrats Vote to Strengthen Student Success Act

HB 2060 A strengthens the [Student Success Act](#), passed in 2019, by addressing systemic disparities in mental health and ensuring equitable access and investment in culturally responsive, trauma-informed mental and behavioral health services for children

SALEM, OR— Today, the Oregon House passed [House Bill 2060 A](#), strengthening the [Student Success Act](#) by addressing systemic disparities in mental health to ensure equitable access and investment in culturally responsive, trauma-informed mental and behavioral health services for underserved children amidst an economic recession and global pandemic. The legislation modifies certain provisions established by the Student Success Act by identifying economically disadvantaged students based on State Board of Education rule for purposes of Student Investment Account distributions.

“When we passed the Student Success Act in 2019, we did so as a promise to our children, following decades of disinvestment in our schools,” said [House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner](#) (D-Portland), who co-chaired the Joint Committee on Student Success. “Communities of color continue to experience systemic barriers, and more so now due to COVID. We see how children are impacted when families face economic adversity, food and housing insecurities, and lack access to virtual learning, and other forms of support. With today’s bill we are securing a more equitable and inclusive investment in children’s mental health needs for decades to come because we are committed to every child’s success and wellbeing.”

Passed in 2019, each year the Student Success Act aims to invest \$1 billion in Oregon education, directing corporate tax revenue to classrooms and school programs with an emphasis on meeting the needs of Oregon’s Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students. The landmark act continues to provide targeted funds to expand early education access, fund culturally specific programming, and restore art, music, PE, and career training.

“HB 2060 is an important bill that can fulfill the Student Success Act’s commitment to Oregon students,” said [Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon](#) (D-Woodburn), Chair of the Education Committee. “With this bill we can provide comprehensive mental and behavioral health support that is equitable and answers to the needs of our children, whose wellbeing is essential as we begin to heal and look towards the future.”

The Student Success Act of 2019 passed 37- 21. Today’s House Bill 2060 A passed unanimously and now moves on to the Senate for consideration.

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