



# OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **HOUSE PASSES BILL TO STRENGTHEN TEACHER INPUT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION DECISIONS**

SALEM- The Oregon House of Representatives today took steps to ensure decisions that effect public education policy reflect the expertise of teachers and other education professionals with experience in public school class rooms. HB 4127-A would add more educators' voices to the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), the state board overseeing Oregon's unified pre-kindergarten to college public education system.

"When we're making decisions that impact the education of our schoolchildren, we must ensure those decisions are made by a board with the appropriate expertise," said House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) who sponsored the bill. "There must be an adequate voice from those professionals who have been on the ground, and who know what works for classroom instruction and what doesn't."

HB 4127 requires that four of the 12-member OEIB currently work or previously worked in primary or secondary education, and specifies that two of those members are or have been licensed teachers.

"This is a critical time for Oregon public schools. Whether it's reinvesting in school funding or setting policy that will deliver the best results, we've got to get this right," said Kotek. "Strengthening Oregon's education system will ensure every child has a shot at prosperous future."

HB 4127 now moves to the Oregon Senate.

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