



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 2nd, 2019

To: Chief Clerk Sekerak

Re: Vote Explanation HB 3427A

Chief Clerk Sekerak

HB 3427A provides us with a rational, reasonable, and responsible path toward stability as well as sustainability for our K-12 educational enterprise.

This measure represents an opportunity: an opportunity for all of us keeping faith with our duty to ensure a future for our children – to help learn what they need to know in the 21st Century to continue our Oregon Story.

Since the 1990 passage of Ballot Measure 5 and the subsequent passage of Ballot Measures 47/50, Oregon schools have struggled to provide even a sub-standard education for our students. Our local governments are a shadow of what they once were. Today we turn the page. Today we begin to rebuild our K-12 schools.

As an educator, I believe a robust public education is the most important factor for our democratic institutions; as a retired military officer, I have witnessed the critical differences in lands where education is not prioritized; and as a legislator doing my best to serve the interests of the people of House District 20 – as well as the state of Oregon – I believe we have no time left to salvage our K-12 educational enterprise.

HB 3427A is the result of over 15 months of collaboration: communities throughout the State of Oregon were engaged in rethinking K-12 programming and priorities. HB 3427A establishes the Fund for Student Success (FSS) to provide grants for early learning initiatives, decreasing class size, increasing learning time, expanding curriculum as well as technical learning opportunities, and investments in student health and safety. HB 3427A achieves this investment through establishing a new modified corporate activities tax.

HB 3427A is the result of a two-year long series of negotiations including stakeholders across the ideological as well as political divide. And with all such endeavors, there are interests who favor it and those who oppose it.

On the whole, most involved in the journey recognize this measure as a necessary compromise that will improve our schools throughout the State of Oregon. Many businesses are officially neutral, others are actively supporting passage, and a few remain opposed on principle.

I have long believed that good policy is good politics: seek to do what is right and the rest sorts itself out over time. This means that whatever the potential risks associated with supporting

measures like HB 3427A, the only relevant factor is whether a policy proposal achieves the greatest good given the available alternatives.

I support HB 3427A as the very best alternative available for beginning the hard work of rehabilitating our crumbling K-12 educational enterprise.

I urge an “aye” vote for our future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul L. Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul L. Evans
Oregon House of Representatives
District 20