



**OREGON
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION**

Date: March 10, 2021
To: Senate Education Committee, Chair Dembrow and Members
From: Jared Mason-Gere, Oregon Education Association Government Relations
RE: *SB 702*

The Oregon Education Association on behalf of our 41,000 member educators across Oregon urges your support for SB 702. It has become clear that increasingly, too little time is available for educators to focus in social studies and civics instruction. It is also apparent that the existing social studies standards that pertain to civics instruction are not widely understood by the legislature, other interested parties, or the public. A purposeful review of existing standards and a subsequent report on those standards could be a very worthwhile effort to ensure shared agreement about what already exists as requirements for instruction. Similarly, a chance for a variety of experts to confer about the gaps that may exist in the standards and methods for ensuring adequate time in a school day crowded with state mandates and testing requirements may lead to better outcomes for all concerned.

We do encourage the committee to adopt amendments that would add more social studies teachers to the membership of the taskforce, including and especially certified teachers at the k-5 and middle school levels. Social studies instruction is a continuum as all subjects are, and any review will be incomplete without voices from each level of our K-12 system. With this proposed amendment, we urge your support.