



Oregon School Employees Association

www.osea.org

State Office: 4735 Liberty Rd S, Salem, OR 97302-5036

P: 800/252-6732, 503/588-0121 F: 503/588-8307

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Senate Committee on Education
Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) represents more than 22,000 workers in nearly all levels of public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. OSEA members perform many of the thankless tasks that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers.

School nutrition programs, staffed by OSEA members in most districts in the state, were rightly prioritized for expansion under the Student Success Act. It's widely known that nutritious meals at school are critical for many of our students to have a fair shot at effective learning in our schools. Access to both free breakfast and lunch is an important priority for continued investment, as we learned last year that not only is school nutrition critical to learning, it's critical to providing food to families in our communities who are struggling every day.

House Bill (HB) 2536 ensures that we get into statute the policy intent of the SSA school nutrition expansion. Making this statute clear for all those concerned is critical to delivering the improved level of service that we all want to see in our nutrition programs. And there is no additional cost because we're affirming the understanding that everyone, including the fiscal analysts, had when passing the SSA.

OSEA strongly urges your support for HB 2536, to help make this key part of the Student Success Act work as intended.

Thank you for your attention,

Bob Estabrook
Government Relations Specialist
bobe@osea.org