



MEASURE: HB 2692
EXHIBIT: 2
H BUSINESS & LABOR
DATE: 3-11-2013 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Kylie Grunow

March 11, 2013

Chair Margaret Doherty
Business & Labor Committee
Oregon House of Representatives

RE: HB 2692

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Kylie Grunow and I am the Public Policy and Special Projects Director for the Chalkboard Project, an initiative of Foundations for a Better Oregon.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2692.

Given that teachers have the most significant impact on student achievement in the classroom, it is essential that students have access to teachers who are competent and comfortable teaching the subject matter or grade level asked of them. When reductions in teacher staff positions are required, we must have a process that holds the students as harmless as possible.

Consideration of a teacher's competency – their experience in teaching a particular subject or grade level – should be a requirement rather than an option during layoff procedures. Parents, students and teachers recognize the need for assignment based on competence rather than assignment based on administrative convenience. We recognize that the development of great teachers is a complex, demanding task that requires sustained resources and support. We also recognize that a more nuanced look than just licensure and seniority is needed during any teacher reductions if we are to put the needs of the students first.

We support this legislation and the steps it takes to help ensure that every Oregon student has a great education. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the Oregon Education Association and Stand for Children to see better practice come into being.

Thank you


Kylie Grunow
Chalkboard Project

221 NW Second Avenue, Suite 203
Portland, Oregon 97209

voice: 503.542.4325 fax: 971.230.1274

www.chalkboardproject.org