



April 8, 2013

Chair Sara Gelser
Education Committee
Oregon State House

RE: HB 3254

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

Expanding the teacher licensure continuum will provide the type of career path every professional deserves. Creating instructor and teacher leader licenses will formally recognize many professionals whose contributions to student learning are significant.

Chalkboard believes that creating formal career paths for teacher leaders will aid in the recruitment and retention of effective teachers and ensure that important skills and knowledge, currently isolated in individual classrooms, are spread throughout schools and districts. There are many types of leadership and building principals cannot be expected to fulfill every role. The capacity of schools can be significantly expanded by giving teacher leaders the opportunity to step up into new roles and take on new responsibilities.

The creation of an instructor license would give instructional assistants the option of deepening their knowledge and skills and could serve as an on-ramp to an initial teaching license. Often instructional assistants are the ones working closest with our highest need students. The one-on-one or small group support they provide is extremely valuable. The instructor license will formally recognize the value these professionals provide and help them deepen their impact on students.

The new career paths created through HB 3254 will aid in the recruitment and retention of effective educators and deepen the capacity of schools to meet the needs of every student.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hildick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Hildick
President
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