



May 14, 2013

Stand for Children, Oregon  
1732 NW Quimby Street, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97209

Co-Chairs Senator Richard Devlin and Representative Peter Buckley  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of Support for 3233 – Quality Teaching Network

Dear Co-Chairs Devlin and Buckley:

Stand for Children's goal is to move Oregon's K-12 schools into the top 10 nationally on student achievement, high school graduation, and college preparedness. It is a daunting goal: the fact is that Oregon children are falling behind. Our students today are less likely than their parents to graduate from high school, one in three high school seniors fails to graduate in four years, and, with little support and difficult working conditions, nearly 40% of new teachers leave the profession within the first five years.

This is why Stand for Children has organized a movement of Oregon teachers, parents, and community members to advocate for changes that will improve student achievement by supporting principals and teachers to do their best work - while continuing to fight for stable and adequate school funding.

Studies have shown that effective teachers have the largest impact on students, despite age, race, geography or socio-economic levels. If a quality educator makes a difference for *all* kids, it is where we should focus *all* our efforts to improve Oregon's education outcomes equally. By supporting HB 3233, you make the much-needed commitment to helping our schools empower their teachers and improve their students.

Investing in teachers is the most effective way we can improve student achievement when dollars are tight. Tools for teachers and administrators are more important now than ever because the environment is challenging. Teachers will have higher class-sizes with a greater diversity of

students; administrators will have challenging budgets and more people demanding answers and results.

Because of this, Stand for Children is advocating for mentoring, professional development and new evaluation system assistance for schools, all parts of HB 3233. In addition, the School District Collaboration Grant Program this bill funds has proven to be the perfect way to provide schools with the dollars they need to make much needed change.

Students who have highly effective teachers for three years in a row will score 50 percentile points higher on achievement tests than students who have less effective teachers three years in a row. HB 3233 builds effective teachers by providing the means for change in the areas of evaluation, compensation and career paths. The program gives opportunity, it gives local control, it gives options and it gives hope.

Stand for Children commends you for continuing to lead in the issue of educator quality...the time to change our future is now.