



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

6975 SW Sandburg Street, Suite 250 Tigard, Oregon 97223
Ph: 503-641-0990 Fax: 503-641-0959 oba@oba-online.org www.oba-online.org

TO: Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Oregon Business Association
RE: HB 3233 Quality Teaching Network
DATE: May 14, 2013

The Oregon Business Association, representing over 300 businesses across Oregon, urges you to support 3323, making much-needed investments in the educators in Oregon.

Ensuring a world-class education system for all Oregonians is critical to the state's ability to compete in the global economy and maintain a high quality of life for all Oregonians. As schools around the nation and the world improve, our members are concerned with ascertaining that Oregon kids are globally competitive. Only 68% of Oregon high school students graduate on time with a regular diploma. Yet, 87% of new jobs in Oregon require post-secondary education.

Public education in Oregon must provide students with the essential knowledge and skills to get a good job, to lead a good life and to contribute to the future. As such, OBA believes there is a need for a coordinated systematic approach to delivering a highly qualified workforce for Oregon businesses, and we are dedicated to helping public schools make that happen.

One of OBA's goals for public policy is to maximize teacher quality. A primary means of achieving this end is to expand Oregon's commitment to proven tools, best practices and new systems. HB 3233 continues funding what works (like the School District Collaboration Fund), expands on things we know we can do better (like a professional development system) and helps schools to implement programs already passed by this body (like evaluation changes).

In business, success is dependent on constantly growing, staying ahead of the curve and improving skills. We believe the same is true in schools, and that is why we support HB 3233. Improving our state's educators leads to long-term growth and the success of their students.

As we look for Oregon business to grow and thrive, we must make sure that the teachers who are training the workers of tomorrow are also excelling. Revamped and revitalized quality educator programs will give schools the tools their teachers need and will result in increased achievement for our kids.

Businesses find ways to make every dollars mean more and we are encouraged by education's willingness to do the same. HB 3233 makes clear that the State of Oregon also believes that investment in educators is the key to Oregon's future.

In order to have the best students, we need the best teachers. We need to support teachers from pre-service through their careers and ensure that students have access to great teachers from day one. HB 3233 is full of high-yield investments that will improve the quality of teaching and learning across the state by building on work that is already underway and making a difference for students in Oregon.