



Senate Bill 789: OEBB Comparability Exemption

Vote YES on SB 789

Portland Public Schools (PPS) strongly supports a moratorium on Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) comparability tests once a school district has passed comparability twice in a 4-year period.

PPS is a relatively rare district in that a portion of our employees are already covered through the OEBB, however, a majority are not. PPS' existing **Health & Welfare Trust covers the 3,500 teacher, educational assistants, maintenance workers and bus drivers.**

Currently, every two years we are required to undergo the comparability study for these 3,500 employees that are NOT covered by OEBB. The District spends approximately **\$10,000 in consultant fees** each time we prepare data for the comparability.

Notably, PPS is averaging a **savings of \$8,000,000 per year** by keeping those 3,500 employees out of OEBB and managing our plans through the Trust. By utilizing the cooperative nature of the Trust locally to manage claims and plan design we have been able to drive down expenses.

By comparison we have little to no ability to affect claims, and by extension costs, for the District's 1,200 non-represented and SEIU represented employees covered by OEBB due to inaccessibility to our claims data. OEBB has refused to release that data to us upon our request. However, even if PPS could obtain claims data from OEBB and work to lower our members' OEBB claims, the size of the OEBB total population does not allow our savings to be directly realized by PPS.

Senate Bill 789 would at the very least allow PPS to save the biennial consulting fees that are needed to comply with the comparability study and would as well alleviate the burden of actually going through the study itself. **SB 789 would further provide stability and certainty** for the Health & Welfare Trust so that they may take a long-term approach to containing health care costs.

Please vote YES on SB 789