

Betty Komp
State Representative
District 22

March 1, 2013

Testimony on HB 2789

Chair Gelser and Education Committee Members. For the record my name is Betty Komp and I represent House District 22. My district includes Woodburn, Gervais and North Salem.

When I was a teacher and principal in the Woodburn school district, there was nothing more important to me than the safety of my students. I co-sponsored House Bill 2789 because it will make sure that we have systems in place to ensure the safety of school children across the entire state. The incident at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut last December shows how important these procedures are.

School districts are already required to conduct fire drills. Many districts also have plans in place for safety procedures in the event of an armed intruder. This bill is not for them. This bill is for school districts that need support and guidance on how to protect their students and teachers to make sure they know what to do in case of a violent intruder.

From my own experience as the safety officer for Woodburn school district, I can assure you that practice is crucial. When students and teachers practice safety procedures, they learn exactly what it takes and where to go to make sure they are safe. These drills would be short and would only be necessary once a semester.

Please support our children by making sure a safety plan is in place and practiced.

I urge you to support HB 2789.