



**Statement for the Record In Support of House Bill 3233
Before House Education Committee
March 18, 2013**

The importance of teacher quality for student achievement is now a well-documented and widely cited fact. We know that teacher effectiveness is the most important school-based factor when it comes to improving student achievement. When students have effective teachers, the results are dramatic – children with more effective teachers can gain up to a year’s worth of learning compared to peers with weaker teachers.

While much of the literature on the value of teacher effectiveness measures teachers based on their impact on student test scores, new evidence suggests that teacher effectiveness also influences students’ later life outcomes, such as college-going behavior and earnings.

It is no surprise that the quality has moved to the forefront of education policy in Oregon and we applaud the governor, the chief education officer and the Oregon Education Investment Board for taking the initiative to create a statewide network for professional development to help improve teaching and learning in our state. Investing in great teaching is the most strategic investment we can make in the future of our state.

That is why Stand fully supports the professional development network as proposed in HB 3233.

Every student deserves to have an effective teacher. Further, every teacher deserves to have the support needed to ensure each is the best teacher he or she can be. The professional development network proposed in HB 3233 will provide research-based professional development for teachers across the state. Providing access to high-quality professional development will provide the opportunity for new and incumbent teachers to upgrading their skills.

Further, this legislation complements investments the state has already made to support teachers – including the mentoring program for new educators and the School District Collaboration Fund. These programs have shown promising results and should be further expanded and augmented by the professional development network.

We support HB 3233 and look forward to working with our partners at the Chalkboard Project, the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, the OEIB, and others to pass this important legislation.

Thank you.