



From the Desk of
Rep. Michael Dembrow

Thank you for voting “AYE” on HB 2096

The Oregon Education Association was pleased to lead an interim work group tasked with finding solutions to the problem of empanelling teachers on the appellate body for dismissal cases, the Fair Dismissal Appeals Board, or FDAB.

FDAB hears administrator and teacher dismissal appeals, handling about a dozen cases a year. Oregon law calls for an educator, a school board member, and a member of the public to review cases that come before them. Because of scheduling issues (most cases occur at the busiest time in teachers' school-year schedules) and because school districts employing gubernatorial appointees to FDAB have had to pay for substitute teachers during the time teachers are out for this volunteer service, it has been tough to put panels together.

The Oregon Department of Education asked education stakeholders to help solve this problem. We set out to increase recruitment of potential appointees, and we also proposed the bill before you today.

HB 2096 expands the number of teachers on the FDAB, and it would also permit for the first time the appointment of retired teachers, not solely active-duty teachers. These two fixes, combined with another bill that this body will soon see that reimburses districts for subs, will solve FDAB's problem of composing panels for appellate cases.

We hope that you agree that this common-sense fix makes sense. We hope that you will support HB 2096. We also want to thank the House Education Committee, and especially Vice Chair, Rep. Sherry Sprenger, for support of this bill.

Thank you.