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**BEFORE THE:** House Education Committee  
**REGARDING:** House Bill 2608 - Support  
**BY:** Betsy Miller-Jones, Executive Director  
**DATE:** 2-23-15

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Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee, for the record, my name is Betsy Miller-Jones and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon School Boards Association. I am here today to ask for your support for the concept in House Bill 2608, which would ensure that 1400 locally elected school board members and Oregon's parents have a seat at the table *and* a vote on the deliberations of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), if the Legislature chooses to extend the sunset.

### **Background**

With the creation of the OEIB, Oregon has attempted to work towards an integrated system of education from birth through college. I will admit that many of our members were skeptical of the OEIB concept and the 40-40-20 goals. Too many of them have lived through other major education reforms like CIM-CAM and NCLB and were rightly concerned that this was just another education fad that would fail to take hold for lack of funding or political will.

We appreciate that the Legislature is going to take a close look at the structure, governance and utility of the OEIB in the coming weeks. I do want to acknowledge that our members have been impressed with the leadership of Dr. Nancy Golden and her willingness to engage our organization and meet with our members.

### **OEIB Structure**

Currently, the OEIB is made up of 12 members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The current board includes members who are teachers, superintendents, union leaders, business leaders, professors, academics and representatives of social service non-profits.

Being able to come to the meetings and share your thoughts, opinions and concerns is *not* the same as having a seat at the table and a vote. Right now, our members believe there are glaring omissions from the board. The voice and vote of integral education stakeholder groups are not at the table. The OEIB does not include a member who serves on a locally elected school board or who represents the voice of K-12 parents

### **Ensuring School Board Members and Parents Are Represented**

House Bill 2608 proposes adding two additional board positions to the OEIB and ensuring those spaces are filled by a member of a school board and a K-12 parent. A similar bill passed the House in 2013 with 48 "yes" votes.

Oregon's K-12 public education system is the single largest item in the state budget and the largest entity under the authority of the OEIB. Currently, achievement compacts are the most important area of work under the direction and control of OEIB. These compacts are between the state of Oregon and the locally elected school board; it is the school board that is responsible to set and approve the final goals in the achievement compact.

It is the school board that is ultimately responsible for student achievement in a given district. It is the school board that is ultimately responsible to the state and federal government for improving student outcomes. And it is the school board that is ultimately responsible to their local voters and constituents to make sure Oregon's public school students are prepared to be productive citizens.

That is why school board members across Oregon are asking you to make sure that boards and parents are represented at the table as full voting members and partners on the Oregon Education Investment Board. The insights and perspectives of school board members and parents are essential in the debate about how to reach our shared 40-40-20 goal by 2025.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.