

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Frederick and Sprenger and members of the Committee. I am Kathleen Sundell, a professional educator for 40 years currently full time released President of the Salem Keizer Education Association and serve as a TSPC Commissioner. Today I am not a Commissioner. I am addressing you on my own behalf. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB3339.

As you know HB3339 abolishes the 50 year old educator professional licensure board, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission and move all powers and duties from the Commission to the State Board of Education. It creates a new Division within the Oregon Department of Education called: Teacher Standards and Practice Division with a limited advisory role.

The Division scope is over procedures related to educator complaints ONLY and leaves the final decision making regarding educator discipline with the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education, made up of public members, would be responsible for establishing the professional licensure standards for: teachers, administrators, school counselors, school psychologists and school social workers. Currently employed teachers and administrators are statutorily prohibited from serving as State Board of Education members.

The State Board of Education would be responsible for setting standards and determining the quality of educator preparation programs for both public and private universities and colleges.

In Oregon, professions such as nurses, social workers, lawyers, builders and doctors are responsible for standards and discipline of their professional through independent state licensing boards. HB 3339

would render licensed educators the only profession in the state without a representative state licensure board.

The current Commission is made up of 4 licensed administrators, 8 licensed teachers, 2 higher education educator preparation faculty members and one school board member.

TSPC commissioners are approved by the governor's office and the TSPC staff work closely with the Oregon Department of Education to implement any federal requirements and required oversight of the licensed staff in Oregon public schools.

This allows teachers in Oregon to attain the direct influence inherent in a profession and allows these boards to achieve the goals of rigorous standards, reliable and valid assessments of prospective teachers and teacher prep programs, an aligned continuum of professional practice, and maintenance of high standards.

HB3339 will not make things better. It will place teacher licensure in an already overburdened department with many other priorities. It will place the responsibility for licensure in the hands of the State Board of Education rather than in the hands of education professionals. That would be a huge step backward for the education profession in Oregon.

I urge your opposition for HB3339.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.