



DATE: April 8, 2015

TO: Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee

FROM: Iris Maria Chavez, Government Affairs Director, Stand for Children Oregon

RE: House Bill 3339

Chair Doherty & Members of the committee,

We write to you today in support House bill 3339 and its focus on improving an agency, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC), which has struggled significantly over the last several years to maintain a high quality of service delivery for our state's educators and policymakers.

As advocates for students, with members who are educators and parents, we are committed to ensuring that each and every Oregon student has a high quality educator in front of their classroom every day of the school year. Over the last year the length of time required for TSPC to process educator licenses has grown significantly and negatively impacted the ability for districts to hire highly qualified educators. The current challenges at TSPC cannot be met, alone, with more money. We have heard from educators, administrators at TSPC and policymakers that a re-thinking of the agencies structure and oversight are long overdue.

We applaud Representative Mark Johnson's efforts to address the challenges faced by TSPC by creatively finding a means to find efficiencies in our state's service delivery for educators, while also ensuring alignment between the two state agencies tasked with creating and implementing educator and K-12 policy.

Stand for Children Oregon looks forward to working with members of the committee and Representative Johnson on a better vision for how we ensure that a high quality educator is in every classroom.