

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Testimony in support of SB 447
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Betty Reynolds, Ph.D.
Vice President for Legislation, Oregon PTA

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Girod and Read, and members of the Committee. I'm Betty Reynolds, Vice President for Legislation, Oregon PTA. We commend the work of the Task Force on School Capital Improvement Planning that led to this important proposal. The Oregon PTA supports adequate and stable funding for public education, and adequate, safe public school facilities; we believe this proposal will help accomplish both.

As the Task Force points out, many Oregon schools are outdated, dilapidated, and hazardous. Oregon PTA volunteers are in schools every day and know the difference a modern school can make for student success.

- SB447 creates a program of state bonding and grants to update and improve schools across Oregon.
- The bill supports creating up to date classrooms, labs and shops which will allow students to learn and explore beyond the limits of our outdated schools.
- Well-built schools will allow the use of current technology and important teaching opportunities which require advanced spaces and technology-ready construction.
- Wise use of state dollars to inspire and support local schools and students will create quality jobs and invest in communities as well as our students.
- The bill facilitates coordination, technical assistance and ways of sharing best ideas for school districts working to improve their buildings

We thank Senator Devlin and Representative Fagan for sponsoring the bill, and this committee for your leadership in considering this innovative means to help all students achieve at their highest potential. A coordinated Oregon School Facilities Program and careful investments can reverse the decline of Oregon school buildings. At the same time we invest in our schools we will invest in our students who will learn in buildings that will support and inspire their success.

We share your vision that every Oregon child should have a safe, modern and well equipped school, and we support SB447.