



Date: February 27, 2017

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Workforce, Chair Taylor and members

From: Emily McLain, Government Relations Oregon Education Association

Re: Support for SB 828

The Oregon Education Association represents over 44,000 members across the state of Oregon. Our members are educators working in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 public schools and community colleges. OEA's membership includes licensed teachers and specialists, classified/education support professionals (ESPs), community college faculty, retired educators, and student members. We support SB 828 because Oregon families, and Oregon students cannot live life on one day's notice.

Education professionals know firsthand how challenging and detrimental inconsistent and unknown scheduling can be for Oregon students. Our schools run on strict schedules and rely on planning far in advance so that Oregon children and families can have consistency in everything from drop off and pick up times, to bus routes schedules, to school start and end times, and extracurricular activity schedules.

Hourly workers currently have no say in their schedules. That means that every day Oregon families with children in Oregon public schools can work hard to plan their week and build workable schedules together and then be met with unpredictable scheduling through last-minute notifications of shift changes or cancellations. This has a direct and negative impact on their ability to plan with their children around the school day schedule. Unpredictable scheduling can also mean unpredictable income. As a result, families are not able to plan and budget for their needs from every day basics like food, bills and rent, to making a decision about whether or not a child can participate in extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities have unfortunately become out of reach for many low-income students and families due to costs and times.

Participation in extracurricular activities means that you need to have transportation to and from home on a regular schedule after or before the school day. If your family has a member or two with unpredictable scheduling it is a major barrier for student participation in educational and enriching activities that are associated with positive outcomes such as higher education attainment and greater future earnings¹. Daily OEA members see families struggling with balancing scheduling changes that can negatively interrupt a school day. We need to give students and educators the best chance for productive learning environments and ensure Oregonians can have predictability in their scheduling.

This legislation is about supporting hard working Oregon families by giving them security, predictability and involvement in their work schedules. This legislation is good for the individual directly impacted, but also for the children of workers who need predictability and regular schedules to do their very best in school. On behalf of the Oregon Education Association and our members we ask you to support SB 828.

¹ The Education Gap. Social Mobility and Extracurricular Participation among American Youth
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0002716214548398>