



Oregon School Employees Association

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March 6, 2017

Senator Sara Gelsler, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
State Capital, 900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 363

Chair Gelsler and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Jones, and I am an Oregon School Employees Association Zone Director representing classified employees from Oakridge to Florence and down the Southern Oregon Coast. As a classified employee, I run an elementary school library in Coos Bay. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 363.

I would like to share an incident that took place in my zone last week with a secretary. This secretary has had Oregon Intervention System (OIS) Training. Her office is located adjacent to a Check-In Check-Out room where students whose behavior is disruptive and interfering with the learning of their classmates are taken for a time out period.

Our secretary was asked to help another classified employee with a first grade student who needed to be escorted to the Check in/Check out room. The student began throwing things at both employees from 2-3 feet away. Our secretary ended up with bruising from wrist to elbow and received a bite impression. Assistance was requested but it took 20 minutes for additional help to become available. She went home following the incident but returned to work the next day. Her bruises were photographed and she sent them to her principal.

The secretary said she knew when she took the OIS Training that she would be put in situations where she would get hurt and she accepted that as part of her job. She felt that her injuries were made worse because she was wearing short sleeves and the student often bites, scratches and pinches. Had she been wearing a sweatshirt, she would have been better protected. She also mentioned that the student's behavior has been escalating and that Check-in/Checkout has not been a successful intervention for him. In addition to throwing things, he is also verbally abusive.

The secretary also said:

- *My work ethic and integrity does not allow me to pass on a difficult situation to someone else.*
- *My principal has recommended I not renew my OIS training. As a secretary it is not within my job description but if someone needs help it is not in me to say no. My principal is older and*

The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the American Association of Classified School Employees (AACSE).

physically I am better able to handle a disruptive student. I mean, it's only a first grader, I can handle a first grader. It's just frustrating that his behavior is escalating but our response is the same.

- *I love my job. There is no better job I'd rather do. I love the kids.*
- *What is the solution? What is the magic number of incidents before something else is done?*

I am sharing this secretary's story, not because I agree with her but because I understand her reasoning. She will continue to put herself in harmful situations if it protects her students and her coworkers because there isn't an alternative.

Thank you for your consideration,

Teri Jones,
Library Media
Madison Elementary School

