



Oregon School Employees Association

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March 8, 2017

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Business and Labor Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3008

Good afternoon Chair Holvey and members of the committee,

My name is Soren Metzger and I am here today on behalf of the 21,000 school support personnel represented by the Oregon School Employees Association in support of HB 3008. As I understand it, HB 3008 is common sense legislation to prevent wage theft.

OSEA represents members working in nearly all levels of public education including Head Start programs, K12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. OSEA members provide the thankless tasks that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers throughout the school day. OSEA members work in both public and private sectors and are primarily hourly workers.

At our recent Legislative Education Day, during a presentation from Oregon's Commissioner of Labor, a room of OSEA members erupted into laughter when told they should be taking their lunches and breaks as required by law. As you can imagine, I was surprised to hear this and this is precisely why I am here today.

OSEA supports improvements to laws preventing wage theft and that allow better access to administrative and legal remedies when employees have been victims of wage theft.

Thank you,

Soren Metzger
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