



Oregon School Employees Association

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Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tyler Shipman I am a government relations specialist with the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). Our association represents over 21,000 education employees across the state, including K-12 public schools, education service districts (ESDs), community colleges, Head Starts, park and recreation districts and libraries. I am appearing today on behalf of OSEA to speak in support of House Bill (HB) 2433.

HB 2433 would create a pilot program for school districts to apply for grant money to build affordable senior housing on district property. To be selected for a grant school districts would have to show how many staff and resources would be used for their program, as well as how the low-income housing will be used at the end of the pilot program. In order to apply for housing an individual would need an income of 150 percent or below the area median income, pass a background check, and be least 55 years of age. Tenants that were provided housing would be required to volunteer in the school district for a minimum of 10 hours a week.

Affordable housing has become a crisis throughout the state of Oregon and we are in need of a creative solution. HB 2433 provides many benefits to school districts by utilizing unused property, providing affordable housing and increasing community involvement in our schools. In addition, HB 2433 would allow people that are already knowledgeable in the school setting to continue contributing to students after they have retired.

A majority of our members are very susceptible to the rising cost of housing due to their low wages; having an average annual salary of only \$24,239. This problem is made worse when a classified employee retires. Often, their retirement benefit is only a few hundred dollars a month at best. This legislation could be very beneficial to our members because most are above the age of 55 and meet the salary requirements to apply. Affordable housing options are very limited to low wage workers and seniors. OSEA supports HB2433 because it would provide affordable housing to people that are in desperate need while adding support to our schools.