



Oregon School Employees Association

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May 9, 2017

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 327A

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the more than 21,000 members of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) in support of the recreational immunity bill, SB 327A.

OSEA represents employees working in Oregon school districts, community colleges, education service districts, Head Start agencies, libraries and park and recreation districts. This includes grounds and maintenance professionals, and custodians.

SB 327A would extend recreational immunity to these employees while acting in the scope of their assigned duties. This means that employees will not be held liable for injuries resulting from negligence of an employer when their employers space is used for recreational purposes including fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, outdoor educational activities, waterskiing, winter sports, viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic or scientific sites or volunteering for public purpose projects.

The K-12 student population in Oregon continues to grow¹ yet to balance budgets some districts have had to cut maintenance positions, resulting in a backlog of up to three years for work order requests for maintenance and repairs in some school districts. Employees in recreational districts and school districts do as much as they possibly can with the limited staff resources, hours, tools and training provided by their employer.

OSEA supports policies that promote safe, healthy environments with fully trained, high-quality career professionals serving the needs of the public. We urge the committee's support of SB 327A.

Thank you,

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¹ <http://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/reportcards/Documents/rptcard2016.pdf>