



Honorable Barbara Smith Warner, Co-Chair
Honorable Rod Monroe, Co-Chair
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol

June 5, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Chair Monroe and members of the Subcommittee,

Chalkboard believes that educator leadership is essential to improving student outcomes in Oregon. We applaud Governor Brown's Executive Order to convene practicing educators, legislators, agency directors, philanthropists, and other education partners, as the Council on Educator Advancement, to develop recommendations for building a comprehensive and seamless system of supports for Oregon educators.

The purpose of Senate Bill 182 is to move those recommendations into action and to improve our system of professional infrastructure for educators, with the overarching goal of making sustainable positive impacts on the learning experience of every Oregon student. This is about helping educators to have the resources and support necessary to continue to be learners themselves in growing their instructional practices. We believe this is best achieved by a systematic approach to improving educator effectiveness through a system which is nimble enough to respond to the changing needs of students, educators, schools, districts, and communities.

Chalkboard envisions the Educator Advancement Council guiding this systematic approach and serving as its implementation backbone. The most capable Council would be composed of practicing educators, state education agencies, and other education partners such as early learning providers and professionals, educator preparation providers, professional associations, community-based organizations, post-secondary institutions and interested federally recognized tribes of the state. We also think it's important that nonprofit and philanthropic organizations are included on the Council for the deep knowledge in program implementation they can bring.

The Educator Advancement Council is envisioned as an entity functioning through an intergovernmental agreement allowed between the parties by Oregon statutes. The agreement shall outline the governance framework and administrative details necessary for efficient and effective implementation. We expect this innovative structural approach will help reach every corner of the state with limited funds in a more targeted fashion, informed much more fully than currently possible by practitioners in the field. Whether it be mentoring for first and second year teachers, or collaborative career building efforts, we have seen the demand

for these programs deepen over time. If we can scale them for every educator in the state in a thoughtful and careful way, we believe all Oregon's children will greatly benefit from improved instruction in the classroom.

The Council's recommendations and Senate Bill 182 have set us on the path toward building one of the strongest educator workforces in the country. We know transformation in our education system will happen only with leadership from our practitioners, and our educators are ready to lead. Chalkboard supports the state's vision to usher in an education system that unlocks the potential of every teacher and student in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Hildick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sue Hildick, President
Chalkboard Project