



## Oregon School Employees Association

www.osea.org

State Office: 4735 Liberty Rd S, Salem, OR 97302-5036

P: 800/252-6732, 503/588-0121 F: 503/588-8307

June 13, 2017

Representative Phil Barnhart, Co-Chair  
Senator Mark Hass, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Tax Reform  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2830 with the -2 Amendment

Dear Co- Chairs Barnhart, Hass and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of over 21,000 school support personnel represented by the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) in support of the direction of HB 2830 with the -2 amendment, the compromise revenue plan being brought forward by Speaker Tina Kotek and Co-Chair Mark Hass.

OSEA represents public and private sector members working in nearly all levels of public education including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. Increasingly OSEA members are being asked to do more with less both inside and outside of the classroom. In the classroom there has been and an increase in the number of complex medical procedures non-medical school support personnel are being asked to provide; and an increase in class sizes, including higher student-to-staff ratios in special education resulting in more reported cases of staff injuries.

For those being turned away before they get to the classroom the compromise revenue plan could allow for a much needed investment in our youngest, most vulnerable population. According to 2015-17 information made available by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), 13,877 children are served by Oregon pre-kindergarten (OPK) programs, meaning only 63.7 percent of the eligible population of 21,789 receive services.

Outside of the classroom OSEA members are trying to survive on their modest salaries. The median salary for our membership is \$21,541.72 annually and 75 percent of OSEA's membership qualifies for SNAP benefits. Some OSEA members' salary isn't even enough to cover health care premiums for the district provided health benefits requiring them to write checks back to their employer to cover their health insurance costs.

OSEA supports public policy that provides sufficient education funding, from preschool through post-secondary, to ensure goals and requirements in the law can be met with regard to quality, achievement and access to public education. This compromise revenue plan moves us in the right direction and we urge the committee's support of HB 2830 with -2 amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Soren Metzger