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To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association
Re: Senate Bill 1521
Date: February 7, 2018

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Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts throughout the state of Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1521.

SB 1521 would amend provisions of various chapters of session laws in order to extend the sunset on open enrollment student transfer provisions. Those provisions are set to expire in 2019. SB 1521 would give a one-year extension, to 2020.

Oregon's K-12 interdistrict transfer system is not perfect. It is sometimes criticized as being unnecessarily rigid, with timelines that are inflexible and difficult for parents to operate within. The system would benefit from a revision.

SB 1521 will permit that to happen. Extending the open enrollment sunset by one year will give education stakeholders, including but not limited to OSBA, to convene prior to the 2019 legislative session with the goal of producing a proposal for an updated, more accessible, and all-around better interdistrict transfer system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.