

TO: House Committee on Business and Labor
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Government Affairs Administrator, Multnomah County Schools
DATE: February 7, 2018
RE: HB 4012

Chair Holvey, Members of the Committee:

Across our schools in Multnomah County we provide a variety of career and technical education (CTE) programs, from culinary to manufacturing opportunities. It is a priority for us to help students discover their passions and also prepare them for meaningful, livable wage careers.

However, we do face challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified staff for these programs. Many of these subjects require a highly specialized knowledge base or skillset, which adds an additional challenge to hiring in an already tight market. The ability to continue employing otherwise retired educators in these programs allows us to maintain continuity of programs for our students.

We know that long-time teachers lead with their hearts, but it would be a difficult ask of anyone to do this work at financial detriment to themselves. This exemption gives us the flexibility to hire these specific teachers without making an unreasonable ask of them, and to continue serving our students in these much-needed areas.

Thank you,

Stacy Michaelson