

Dear Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session,

Thank you for all you do on behalf of Oregonians and especially our students. Thank you also for considering this Liability Protection for our schools. We appreciate the federal and state dollars that have helped school districts and schools weather the economic impacts of COVID-19. We are also celebrating the supports we can provide our students through the SIA dollars. However, we are concerned that potential law suits may divert dollars from our students to addressing litigation. Please protect schools from this potential.

Here in the South Lane School District we have students who are very rural, some who don't even have addresses with whom we haven't able to connect. We also have over 450 families from Guatemala who are seeking asylum in our country. These families are especially impacted by COVID-19 because their jobs have disappeared or they work in industries where the coronavirus has spread quickly. They live in small places with many families in one home making impossible to self-isolate when one becomes ill with COVID-19. Their tight living quarter and limited continuous internet access has also made it very difficult to educate their students at home in Comprehensive Distance Learning. We will need to provide additional supports to bridge these students' interrupted education when we can resume in-person schooling.

Please support this liability protection in order to keep us safe from potential law suits that would take dollars from our these students most in need of services and send them out the door to attorney fees and liability settlements.

I am proud of our Oregon Legislature and all of the ways you have fought the hard fight to bring resources and services to Oregon's students during my 32-year career in Oregon. I have seen first hand, your work and your successes. Please advocate for our students one more time by ensuring that we are protected with COVID-19 Liability Protection.

Thank you for your willingness to listen and your service, especially to our most vulnerable populations of students.

Warm Regards,
Yvonne

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