

RE: LC 21

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

As the Chair of the Beaverton School Board, I am writing today to ask you to please support LC 21 during the December Special Session. The Beaverton School Board and district staff are working hard to prepare for the eventual return of our students to in-person learning and we need the protections that LC 21 provides.

When we return to our school buildings, our school district needs certainty that if we meet all state and federal safety and health guidelines, we will not be at risk for lawsuits related to the unintentional spread of COVID-19.

Our liability insurance policies do not offer coverage for disease outbreaks like COVID-19. The current uncertainty, and the financial risk it would pose for our district, is creating a barrier as we work to prepare and resume in-person learning.

It will be a top priority in all of our schools to protect students, staff, and families. We also have to protect our district, and make sure our finite resources can go to students – not lawsuits. LC 21 will bring clarity and security to our decision-making processes as we consider resuming in-person education in Beaverton.

Please support LC 21 to address this issue and help Oregon schools.

Thank you,
Becky Tymchuk
Chair, Beaverton School Board