



Date: 03/04/2019

To: Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, and Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Kelli Horvath, Government Relations, Oregon Education Association

RE: OEA support for HB 2897

Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) represents more than 44,000 educators who serve more than 600,000 Oregon students. Our members include educators, specialists, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, and community college faculty and staff from across the state.

OEA would like to express our support for HB 2897 and encourage the committee to support this legislation.

As educators who support Oregon students from cradle through career, OEA's members work with an increasingly diverse student population in the classroom every day. They have firsthand experience with the challenges and opportunities that Oregon must tackle to ensure that every student has equitable access to education.

OEA's members also understand the critical importance of intentional investment in early learning opportunities. Expanding early learning opportunities that are more culturally and linguistically responsive to students than what many school districts can currently offer is a critical piece of this puzzle as Oregon works to support students across the state to meet their full potential. HB 2897 will establish the Early Childhood Equity Fund and help Oregon educators provide more students—from an early age—with culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, and foster more opportunities for long-term student success. OEA encourages you to support this bill. Thank you for your consideration,

Kelli Horvath,  
Government Relations  
Oregon Education Association