

To the Oregon Legislature,

My husband and I are both happily employed by Bend LaPine Schools and are grateful that our careers allow us to make a positive impact on our community. We support HB 3075 that maintains current health benefits for public employees, rather than reducing benefits by restricting double coverage.

We feel fortunate to both have jobs that provide insurance coverage, even though the value of our benefits has decreased substantially over the last decade while costs continue to go up. SB 1067 further decreases the value of benefits that we receive as a family with two OEBC employees. SB 1067 punishes my family simply because my husband and I are both OEBC employees. As a part-time employee, I receive \$641.25 each month from Bend LaPine Schools for medical coverage. Currently, I am able to contribute this amount to my family's health coverage. I provide dental coverage for my family and also contribute to our HSA, which is the only reason our high deductible insurance plan is financially feasible for our healthy family of 4. SB 1067 will prevent me from choosing the best way to distribute this money I receive as part of my benefits package.

With nearly double-digit percentage increases in premiums each year, and the inability to contribute my medical benefits to my husband's HSA plan for our family, I will lose approximately \$500 each month that will come at the expense of taking care of my family or contributing to my retirement.

SB 1067 also contradicts the Oregon Equal Pay Act of 2017. How is it equitable for my eligibility for an opt out stipend to be determined by where my spouse works? This is inconsistent with the legislature's intent to equalize pay. This law is discriminatory against families with multiple OEBC/PEBC employees and unjustly limits our insurance choices and limits pay equity. HB 3075 maintains public employee benefits and adheres to Oregon's Pay Equity law.

I love being a teacher. I look forward to going to work every day and making a real difference in the lives of my students. I did not choose this profession because I knew it would make me wealthy. Insurance and retirement benefits are a perk for educators and other public employees who work tirelessly for much less than people with Master's degrees in the private sector. It is unfair to change these benefits. We need to keep good teachers in the classroom and maintain the quality of our public employees.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me for more information.

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