

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a high school teacher in Central Oregon and so is my husband. I urge you to co-sponsor and vote for HB 3075. Here is my story and reasons for urging you to vote this way:

My husband has taught high school for over 10 years in Oregon. For some of those years, we were a single income family while I stayed home with young children. We have four! Some of that time, I taught part time at our community college.

Recently, we decided that I should pursue my MAT in order to be able to teach high school. I was fortunate to get a position at a local high school with a restricted license. While teaching and raising our family, I have concurrently been working to complete my second Master's degree. I will finish in April. We invested our family's time and money into this education because we believe it is important work, and right for our family.

Never in my life would I have expected legislation such as what has come to pass regarding double coverage for public employees.

We feel as though after making this huge investment to teach in Oregon, the rug has been pulled out from under us.

This looks and feels an awful lot like discrimination against this working mother. How can my employer keep my benefits from me? I work to earn those, they are a part of my pay! This legislation will hit our family for thousands of dollars. This will impact our ability to provide healthcare services to our four children. I work for those benefits, and I believe in standing up for my right to keep them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kirsten Larwin