



TO: House Committee on Health Care
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, East Multnomah County Schools
DATE: March 19, 2019
RE: HB 3075

Chair Salinas, Members of the Committee:

For the record, I'm Stacy Michaelson, Government Affairs Administrator for East Multnomah County Schools. I represent Centennial, Corbett, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose, and Reynolds School Districts, as well as Multnomah Education Service District. Collectively, these districts serve over 40,000 students.

I urge your support of HB 3075. For our districts, 2017's HB 1067 has had some notable negative impacts. Prior to that bill's passage, districts could work with employees who might otherwise be double-covered to provide an incentive to opt-out of district coverage. This provided an option for districts to see some savings in their healthcare costs. Just as districts have lost some savings options, employees have seen their health coverage options limited, which can be particularly challenging for those with high-cost or chronic conditions.

In a time when districts are still looking at cuts for the coming school year, the more tools we can give them to find savings within their budgets, the better. Similarly, as we talk about the challenges to teacher recruitment and retention, we need to have benefits options that can best support staff across a spectrum of situations.

We stand with many of our colleagues in urging your support of HB 3075.

Thank you.

Superintendent *Sam Breyer*

Board of Directors *Jessica Arzate ♦ Mary Botkin ♦ Kristin Cornuelle ♦ Siobhan Burke ♦ Michael Durrow ♦ Susie Jones ♦ Helen Ying*

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