



Date: February 2, 2019
To: House Education Committee – Chair Doherty and Members
From: Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations Consultant
RE: ***HB 2512 [Adding Teacher Voice to State Board of Education]***

On behalf of OEA’s 46,000 members, it is my pleasure to submit testimony in support of HB 2512, which would add a teacher to the State Board of Education with full voting rights. In 2010, OEA requested a similar bill, which would have added two members to the SBE, and it succeeded in passing both legislative chambers.

Nearly every other professional board is composed primarily of the members of the profession concerned. Though regulatory boards are focused primarily on credentialing and discipline, they do make considerable policy as well. Oregon’s educators have a voice but no vote on the education policy board for the state, despite the fact that their expertise and real-time knowledge could help shape better education initiatives and administrative rules.

According to the National Association of State Boards of Education, four states – Arizona, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Wyoming – give teachers a seat with voting rights, and another five states, including Oregon, offer an *ex officio* slot. While just eight states prohibit teachers from serving, the rest of the states either allow teachers to serve (but do not designate the seat specifically) or have policies that are silent on the issue.

We believe that it is a matter of professional respect to involve Oregon’s teachers in the State Board deliberations and decisions that affect our 565,000 public school students.

We thank Rep. Doherty for her sponsorship of this bill and ask the committee to vote yes for HB 2512.

Thank you.