



# Northwest Regional Education Service District

December 18, 2020

Re: Urging Support of LC 21: Temporary COVID-19 Liability Protection for Education

Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, and members of the Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session:

As education leaders, our primary responsibility is to ensure all our students are safe and engaged in high levels of learning. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have relied on our healthcare partners to provide guidance aimed at keeping our students - and the adults who support their learning - healthy.

On behalf of the Northwest Regional ESD and our 20 component districts serving over 100,000 children and families, we are asking for your support of LC 21, which provides temporary liability protection for damages related to COVID-19 for school and education service districts when operating in compliance with emergency rules. We are not advocating for full immunity or unlimited protection from irresponsible actions; however, when school programs are following the emergency state guidance and safety rules, liability protections must be afforded.

LC 21 supports schools that operate in compliance with these emergency rules and our urgent collective goal to safely bring students and educators back into classrooms. LC 21 allows us to focus on that mission.

We urge your support of LC 21.

Sincerely,

Dan Goldman, NWRESD

Craig Hoppes, Astoria

Jeff Leo, Banks

Don Grotting, Beaverton

Cathy Hurowitz, Clatskanie

David Parker, Forest Grove

Susan McKenzie, Gaston

Mike Scott, Hillsboro

Steve Phillips, Jewell

Bill Fritz, Knappa

Paul Erlebach, Neah-Kah-Nie

Misty Wharton, Nestucca Valley

Joseph Hattrick, Rainer

Tim Porter, Scappoose

Susan Penrod, Seaside

Heather Cordie, Sherwood

Scot Stockwell, St Helens

Sue Rieke Smith, Tigard-Tualatin

Curt Shelley, Tillamook

Aaron Miller, Vernonia

Tom Rogozinski, Warrenton Hammond

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