



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

From: Erika Lopez, Chair, Martin Granum, Vice Chair, Lisa Allen,  
See Eun Kim, Yadira Martinez, Jaci Spross, Mark Watson

Date: December 17, 2020

As school districts across the state navigate the many challenges that COVID-19 presents, we continue to be concerned with the lack of response to limit liability to Oregon schools. We are requesting that legislators provide clear direction regarding the legal liabilities related to COVID-19. We understand that in cases of reckless conduct or an intentional disregard for the expectations outlined in the Safe School Ready Learners guidance that limited liability would not be possible. However, we must have coverage for unintentional spread as one lawsuit may be detrimental to district finances and impact our ability to serve students.

We are proud of the improvements that have been made in our distance learning model, but we must find an avenue back to in-person learning. Without clear legislative action to address COVID-19 related lawsuits, it will be difficult for many districts to expand the reopening to more than limited in-person instruction without the potential for significant hardship.

I urge you to take action on this issue in order to allow our limited resources to be used in a manner that will directly benefit students.

Sincerely,

Hillsboro School District Board of Directors

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***Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence***

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