

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

Thank you for your tireless efforts in supporting our children, our families, and our communities this year. I am extremely grateful to live in a State where our values are aligned with our actions. I am writing to encourage you to help Oregon schools by supporting LC 21. As the Superintendent of the Roseburg Public Schools, I know our district is doing everything we can to ensure our students can safely resume learning, but the uncertainty around COVID-19 liability continues to be a challenge and a significant concern for us.

Oregon schools only have access to insurance policies that do not offer coverage for the risk of unintentional spread of COVID-19. For many districts, including mine, one lawsuit could completely derail our finances and cut into the available resources to educate our students. There are so many important priorities for our students' future learning, and COVID-related lawsuits would pull resources from these needed services for our kids.

LC 21 will give districts that are complying with state and federal COVID-19 guidelines temporary liability protections until the pandemic crisis passes. The legislation will ensure that there is accountability for any reckless or intentional misconduct, while also providing districts with the protections they need to move forward in educating our students.

I urge you to pass LC 21 in the December Special Session.

Sincerely,

Jared Cordon  
Roseburg Public Schools Superintendent  
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