

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

I am writing today to urge you to pass LC 21 during the December Special Session.

School districts have many additional considerations for this school year than in years past. From the school board and administrators to every student, teacher, and parent, we have all been working to ensure the health and safety of the staff and students from COVID-19 and keep education moving forward.

As we navigate these challenges, we also have the added stress of what a COVID-19 lawsuit – even if we’re complying with state and federal guidelines – would do to our district’s finances. All schools in Oregon have liability insurance, but these policies do not offer coverage for the risk of unintentional spread of COVID-19. Without insurance, schools are at great financial risk – a risk that would pull resources away from our students and their education.

LC 21 is a balanced approach that will address this issue for Oregon schools. It ensures accountability for reckless or intentional misconduct, while also providing necessary protection to districts that comply with state and federal COVID-19 guidelines.

Please pass LC 21 to help Oregon schools!

Thank you,

Jose Aparicio, Vice Chair
North Wasco County School District Board