



**Date:** March 31, 2021  
**To:** Senate Education Committee, Chair Dembrow and Members  
**From:** Jared Mason-Gere, Oregon Education Association Government Relations  
**RE:** *Support for SB 225 -3 amendments, school resource officer/law enforcement contracts*

The Oregon Education Association on behalf of our 41,000 members encourages support for the -3 amendments to SB 225, ensuring that school boards be involved before a school district may enter into a contract with a law enforcement agency for the services of school resource officers (SROs).

The public has increasingly scrutinized the role of school resource officers and questioned whether a consistent law enforcement presence is appropriate for a school setting. Many communities have significant and well-founded concerns about the role of police in schools and the ways that school resource officers may factor into the perpetuation of the school to prison pipeline. At the same time, many educators find that the SROs in their schools play an important role in students' lives and provide additional help in connecting students with resources and add a positive adult influence, among other value additions.

Oregon and the communities around the state are due for a conversation about the appropriateness of law enforcement in schools and that communities should be engaged in any local decision-making. While the -3 amendments to SB 225 most certainly do not mark the end of the conversation on this topic, we view it as an important start to making purposeful decisions about the use of school resources, the appropriate roles of law enforcement, effective methodologies for keeping students and staff safe, and delivering much-needed supports for students and their families.

Please vote to ensure that there will be a local, district-by-district public process with community stakeholder input on any potential school district contracts with law enforcement agencies.