



To: House Committee on Judiciary  
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist  
Re: House Bill 2942  
Date: February 11, 2021

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Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2942.

If a person is found to have committed a crime listed in ORS 342.143, then that statute prohibits that person from being granted the necessary license to teach or administrate in an Oregon school. HB 2942 would remove some crimes, almost all of them related to illegal drugs, from that list. The bill would also make other changes to ORS 342 in a similar vein, all with the apparent goal of enfranchising more members of a community into the local school community.

OSBA supports the goals of HB 2942. Oregon is in the midst of reforming a criminal justice system that has, deliberately or otherwise, had the effect of removing a disproportionate number of people of color from the school community. Undoubtedly, student and staff safety must be the top priority for school districts. HB 2942 would seek to maintain that level of safety while simultaneously removing restrictions that inhibit some otherwise-qualified people from pursuing a career as part of a local school community.

We understand that there may be amendments to HB 2942, and we look forward to the final form of the bill. Because, both in Oregon and nationally, societal understanding of drug use and drug abuse disorder is changing rapidly. With the passage of Ballot Measure 91 in 2014 and Ballot Measure 110 last year, Oregon is the leader among states in drug-decriminalization policy. If we are to believe in any of the goals of equity or restorative justice, then it is important for our systems to cease to punish individuals for the worst day of their lives, especially for crimes that we no longer consider criminal, and especially when the punished are so often people of color.