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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

HB 2502: Task Force on School Safety
House Judiciary Committee
January 28, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and members of the committee, I am Jessica Ventura, Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2502.

In 2014, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 4087, creating the Task Force on School Safety. The bill designated policymakers from the Governor's office, the Legislature, law enforcement, emergency services, and education to serve on this task force. The task force was asked by the Legislature to focus on three objectives, 1. Developing a database of school floor plans; 2. Reviewing education and training programs; and 3. Looking at school safety and incident response protocols and making a recommendation regarding statewide protocols.

The work of the Oregon Task Force on School Safety impacts school district school safety policies, practices, and programs statewide. It is imperative that this decision making group not only reflects the individuals delivering the services, but the people they are trying to serve as well. Our student body has never been more diverse; currently, almost 40 percent of students in Oregon are students of color. The need for representation of historically, traditionally, and currently underserved students in statewide school safety work is articulated in OAR-581-029-0001 (Section 36 of the Student Success Act) and OAR 581-022-2510 (Adi's Act, Senate Bill 52).

While ODE is officially neutral on this bill, we agree wholeheartedly with the goal of this proposed legislation. We do, however, want to name some considerations as this bill goes through the legislative process.

1. Consider adding specific language on delineating groups for representation, which could include groups such as these:
 - Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Latino/a/x, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Multi-Racial
 - Ever English Learners
 - LGBTQ2SIA+
 - Students experiencing disabilities, both visible and invisible
 - Unhoused students
 - Students in the foster care and juvenile justice systems

- Children of incarcerated parents
2. Update the language from “Confederation” to “Coalition” of Oregon School Administrators.
 3. Note this proposal may require [tribal consultation](#) under Title 1, Part D (Prevention and Intervention Programs), pertaining to the charge of the Oregon Task Force on School Safety.
 4. Finally, ODE believes that student voice should always be centered in decisions that affect their lives; this proposal should consider naming student representation as a requirement.

We do not anticipate any significant fiscal impact for ODE as a result of this legislation. Thank you for your time, and we welcome any questions you may have.