



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

### **HB 2058: Accepting Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) Fingerprinting Result House Education Committee February 2, 2021**

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the committee, I am Nicole Peterson, Legislative Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2058.

Per ORS 326.603, ODE conducts fingerprint-based background checks on newly hired public school employees working in positions that do not require a license, registration or certification from the Teachers Standards & Practices Commission (TSPC). Currently, a person who is or was licensed by the TSPC and went through the Commission's fingerprinting process would be required to undergo a second fingerprint-based background check by ODE if they apply for a position with a school that does not require a TSPC license.

ODE prides itself on providing responsive customer service to all individuals and entities it interacts with. HB 2058 helps us reach this aim by allowing ODE to accept the results of the TSPC's criminal records checks in certain situations. Individuals who have previously submitted to a TSPC fingerprint-based background check within the past three years or remained continuously licensed or registered with TSPC would then be exempt from submitting another check done by ODE. By making this change, ODE can provide a better customer experience with state bodies coordinating with each other rather than arbitrarily requiring an unnecessary additional check.

We expect this proposal to have a positive impact for both ODE and school districts in staff time and cost savings as they will need to conduct fewer fingerprint-based background checks.

Thank you for your time, and we welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Peterson

Legislative Coordinator