

Testimony in Support of SB 1522 -3 amendments

February 3, 2022

Good afternoon Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee. I am Marshall Coba representing Stride, Inc. We provide curriculum and management services to three virtual public charter schools in the Mitchell School District. I am testifying in support of the SB 1522-3 amendment.

If you think you have heard of this issue in previous sessions, you are correct. This PERS for charter school issue was included in SB 111 that passed in 2021. The -3 amendment will fix a problem in that bill and will finally put this issue behind us. PERS has been very involved in helping us to finalize this language and are supportive of this language.

On page 60, section 30, SB 1522-3 fixes a problem for out of state employees for charter schools just like SB 201 in the 2017 session did for out of state employees of the higher education system and SB 111 did for OHSU employees in 2021. This section is the same as Senate Bill 634-A in the 2019 session. SB 634-A passed the Senate Workforce Committee unanimously and was sent to Ways and Means where it died.

Section 30 ensures that contributions made to the pension program and for the Individual Account Program by Oregon charter schools would be credited to the employees for whose benefit the contributions were made. The common thread defining this group of charter employees are contributions made on behalf of employees by their employer charter schools during a period that these employees and their employers believed they were able to participate in both the pension program and the Individual Account Program. SB 1522--3 will ensure that certain charter school employees, like the higher education employees in 2017, and OHSU employees in 2021, will be treated fairly and in good faith.

Mike Neff, legal counsel for the schools, is on this hearing if you have any further questions.

We urge your support of SB 1522-3.

Thank you for your consideration.