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To: House Committee on Rules
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 4114 testimony, February 10, 2022
Date: February 10, 2022

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Fahey, and members of the committee:

I write to follow up on testimony I delivered in the House Committee on Rules earlier today. In the meeting I repeated an assertion made by one of my members about the total number of school board members in Oregon. After the conclusion of the meeting, upon reflection, I want to clarify that I could have delivered more accurate information.

In testimony, Dr. Sami Al-Abdrabbuh talked about membership of the Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus (OSBMCC) as part of the total number of school board members in Oregon, saying that there were about 100 OSBMCC out of 3,000 board members. In reference to his testimony, I then repeated that 3,000-members figure in testimony about underrepresentation of Oregon’s diverse population on school boards.

I do not know the specifics of Dr. Al-Abdrabbuh’s calculation. OSBA does not calculate that there are 3,000 school board members. Usually in testimony we say approximately 1,400 school board members. There is some variation based upon how the question is asked: 197 school districts with 5-7 members each; 19 Education Service Districts of varying board size; and 17 community college districts of varying board size. Also, given the nature of local office, resignations and appointments to fill vacancies occur regularly. While this means there are a few different ways to calculate the total number of board members, our OSBA position is to say approximately 1,400 school board members statewide.

I did not mean to mislead the committee members in repeating Dr. Al-Abdrabbuh’s calculation. After the close of the hearing, upon reflection, I realized I could have, rather than repeating his assertion, instead delivered best information and said 1,400 school board members in Oregon. Please accept this as a correction into the record with my sincere apology for any confusion.