

Submitter: Hilda Rossellir

On Behalf Of: Current and aspiring educators

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: SB283

Co-chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain,

I have known both of you at least a decade and know have realized the importance of an educator workforce supported at each stage of their careers. You have listened to countless educators sharing barriers often impacting an educator's decision to stay in the profession as well as barriers faced by aspiring educators, particularly those who reflect the diversity in our schools.

I thank you and your colleagues in advance for passing this bill crafted by Senator Dembrow's Educator Workforce Committee over the past two years with participation from many other stakeholders. Elements of this bill focus on developing the needed infrastructure enabling Oregon to better understand and prepare for educator workforce trends and help districts address changes needed to retain a capable and diverse workforce for our schools.

When I helped author the annual Oregon Educator Equity Report for six years, I often lamented on the lack of credible statewide data on educator supply and demand, retirement data, geographic trends, and hard to fill and unfilled teaching positions. A statewide data system could address this.

In my work with Teacher Pathway Navigators across the state, I hear firsthand how difficult it is now to attract future educators, particularly to special education. Additional compensation for special educators as well as a public relations campaign could begin to address recruitment issues along with examining the conundrum existing each time a student teacher has to actually pay for the experience of student teaching 40 hrs a week rather than being paid a living wage for the length of time required in the classroom doing the work of a teacher.

For these reasons and more, I urge the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education to pass this bill and to also consider the positive impact of HB 3178 that would expand the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program.

Thank you,

Hilda Rosselli, PhD

Former WOU College of Education Dean

Former Senior Education Policy Director

Former Interim Director of the Educator Advancement Committee

Facilitator for the Oregon Network of Teacher Pathway Navigators