



TO: House Committee on Rules
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, East Multnomah County Schools
DATE: February 3, 2023
RE: HB 2708

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony on behalf of the six school districts in East Multnomah County: Centennial, Corbett, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose and Reynolds, as well as Multnomah Education Service District. I write today in support of HB 2708, which would designate the first week of March as Classified School Employees Week.

Classified staff have always played an integral role in our school communities, from getting students to school safely, welcoming them in our offices, making sure they are fed and ready to learn, and supporting them in the classroom to ensuring a clean and safe learning environment, as well as many other tasks. And now more than ever, we are asking them to take on more as we all work to address the increased needs of students in the wake of the pandemic. Our ability to serve students effectively hinges on our classified staff, day in and day out.

Classified employees are no less important to our districts than our licensed staff, but for years they have not received the same level of public recognition. It only makes sense to show our appreciation by codifying the importance of classified staff and ensuring they are celebrated for their contributions to students' education.

Please vote yes on HB 2708. Thank you.