



OREGON COALITION OF POLICE & SHERIFFS

Advocating for Oregon's Law Enforcement Officers

February 12, 2023

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 283-3

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Aaron Schmautz and I am the President of the Oregon Coalition of Police & Sheriffs (ORCOPS), a non-partisan organization that advocates on behalf of Oregon law enforcement professionals. I submit this testimony in support of SB 283-3, which would provide basic job security to classified school employees by requiring “just cause” for discipline or discharge.

The “just cause” standard is well-known and commonly used by labor organizations and public employers in Oregon. ORCOPS advocates for the “just cause” standard to protect its own members’ job security so they may focus on their public service. ORCOPS likewise supports the rights of classified school employees to seek the same fundamental fairness in disciplinary actions so they may too focus on their public service.

Like law enforcement professionals, Oregon’s school employees serve an important role in our communities and should not be treated as at-will employees under the law.

I encourage you to pass SB 283-3 to ensure that school employees in Oregon have the basic job protections they deserve.

Aaron Schmautz
ORCOPS President