

March 1, 2023

To: House Committee on Education  
From: Mathilde Bégu, French High School teacher  
RE: Support for HB 3178, Teacher Scholars Program expansion

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the committee—

My name is Mathilde Bégu and I am a French teacher at South Eugene High School in Eugene. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today to express my support for HB 3178, which will allow Oregon's Teacher Scholars Program a much needed expansion.

I am supportive of this bill because I am currently in the process of applying for scholarships to enter a teacher licensure program, and I believe that programs like this are a critical part of the state infrastructure to knock down barriers to becoming an educator.

I am currently teaching in the first year of my restricted license and I need to enter a teaching licensure program before June of this year in order to renew my license. I have completed two Masters degrees from an American University and I have been teaching French for several years now, so joining another program that is costly and demanding is not exactly what I aimed to do at the end of my first year of teaching high school. However, the Oregon's Teacher Scholars Program, which I am currently applying for, is making this step a little bit more manageable for me. As a non-native English speaker (I am French), I truly appreciate being able to apply for a scholarship that represents and supports the linguistic diversity of our students and our educators.

According to a 2022 report release from the Educator Advancement Council, even though the number of teacher, principal and administrator candidates enrolling in Oregon's preparation programs increases, we see a decrease in program completion overall. The report cites that with each milestone towards employment in education, fewer and fewer diverse candidates are present and completing the program— many who do not complete their teacher prep programs say tuition and increasing costs are a barrier. That's why the Teacher Scholars Program is so important.

In addition, we know that the 2022 awards were maxed out, meeting the need of many who see tuition as a barrier for their path to the profession. If we want to meet the challenges of the workforce shortage we have today, we must fully utilize the tools we have for recruitment, like tuition remittance programs, and expand on the idea so we don't leave a single student behind.

In the midst of a workforce crisis, this is a forward-looking solution that centers the bridge between what allows our inspired students in the classroom to envision a path to becoming a future educator and a direct benefit to our incoming workforce.

I encourage the committee to support HB 3178. Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Mathilde Bégu*  
*French High School Teacher*  
*Eugene, 4j*