



TO: The House Committee on Education
FROM: Marc Shelton, Dean of the College of Education
DATE: February 28, 2023

This is a letter of support for HB 2609.

As the current president of the Oregon Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (OACTE) and as dean of the college of education at GFU, I encouraged the drafting of House Bill 2609. This will unwind the previous Senate Bill that mistakenly removed any and all partners, except for Oregon's higher education institutions, and will stop TSPC's authority to levy fees inequitably to only one partner working to prepare quality teachers for schools in Oregon's communities - Oregon's Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs). The passage of SB 129 in 2021 did not apply to any out-of-state providers, as well, so there is a real inequality of treatment between Oregon's institutions of higher education and other states doing business in Oregon.

House Bill 2609 is the right legislation at this time, even more than SB 129 was the wrong legislation at the wrong time. House Bill 2609 represents a timely return to incentivizing instead of penalizing teacher preparation, and removing barriers for Oregon's students and our teacher preparation programs. This is the result of a large amount of effort and expertise dedicated to a collaborative process to improve Oregon's educator workforce.

HB 2609 is a sensible return to a level playing field without penalizing any partner of the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, or the future teachers it serves in its licensing process. Thank you for considering the merits of House Bill 2609.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Shelton".

Marc Shelton
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