



Oregon School Employees Association

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House Committee on Education
Representative Courtney Neron, Chair

Re: Testimony in Support of HB3383

Chair Neron and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Sarah Wofford and I come from southern Oregon where I have worked at Rogue Community College for 12 years as a classified accounting specialist.

I am the president of Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA), which represents over 23,000 employees throughout Oregon in all 36 counties in nearly all levels of Oregon public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, education service districts, community colleges and special districts like parks and rec.

Every day, classified employees support quality education. We are frontline workers who love our jobs and take a lot of pride in supporting all of Oregon's students. Classified employees have the institutional and experiential knowledge that is key to tailoring programs better suited for all of Oregon. I would argue that there are no better experts on input into state education policy.

The representation of classified employees on state education boards and commissions provides an opportunity to do a course-correction for a better tomorrow. Historically, these bodies have included teachers, administrators and often parents and the community, yet no classified employees. Classified are the most diverse segment of the education workforce and more closely reflect our students in districts, this enables us to be a strong partners in culturally informed solutions. We support nearly all aspects of a student's day and, on the student, the number of classified employees they interact with can be between five and 10 times as many as the number of teachers.

Finally, classified employees are hard-working educators who, with state investments that increase job quality, can be a key element to the solution to our state's critical staffing levels. Include classified employees in the development of the initiatives, as well as the work, and you will have a stronger team with more durable and inclusive solutions. Passage of House Bill (HB) 3383 will bring these critical voices to the table, so classified employees are not excluded from the development of education policy that impacts them directly.

It is time to provide access and inclusion to classified professionals and identify us as the education professionals we are.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with you, individually or collectively, in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wofford
OSEA State President

*The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) is an affiliate of
the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the AFL-CIO.*

