

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar
in Support of HCR 18
Before the House Committee on Rules
March 9, 2023**

Chair Fahey and members of the committee:

The Oregon State Bar supports HCR 18, which recognizes the outstanding work done by the Classroom Law Project over the last 40 years.

Oregon's and America's system of justice is premised on the idea that individuals understand their rights, and are able to assert them when something goes wrong. When individuals are unaware of their rights or don't understand how our justice system works, they are more likely to be taken advantage of and less likely to make decisions that set them up for success in the future.

Educating students on how our government functions, including how our court system functions, is key to ensuring that those students will be empowered to protect not just their own rights, but also those of their fellow citizens in the future. Students who are taught civics will grow up to be adults who are more likely to vote, more likely to attend college, and more likely to engage with their government.

The Classroom Law Project has been not just a leader within Oregon, but a national leader in teaching students about our government, and the importance of engaging with government throughout their lives. The Bar is honored to have partnered with the Classroom Law Project many times in the past and looks forward to continuing this cooperation long into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Piucci
Oregon State Bar
Board of Governors