



Oregon  
Tina Kotek, Governor



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**Colt Gill**

Director of the Department of Education

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**SB 1002: Supporting Districts with School Safety & Emergency Management**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**March 23, 2023**

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Nicole Peterson and I am the Legislative Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1002, which will repurpose existing funding to continue much needed support for district school safety and emergency management plans.

The Oregon Department of Education does not currently have authorization to dedicate any state funding to school emergency preparedness. The Student Success Act authorized funding through the Corporate Activities Tax (CAT) to provide regional support to districts in developing and implementing threat assessment teams and suicide intervention plans—activities that fall under school safety initiatives. However, these resources stop short of addressing all hazards and threats that could cause harm to a school environment. The School Safety and Emergency Management program (SSEM) is currently funded through federal grant dollars that expire at the end of this federal fiscal year. The SSEM program is using the temporary grant funding to establish Education Service District partnerships to provide support to school districts on planning for, and responding to any threat or hazard. Many districts have become reliant on the emergency preparedness assistance provided by the SSEM program.

ODE has identified a potential solution to this problem using existing state resources and a necessary statutory change in Senate Bill 1002. As it stands now, the State School Fund's Facility Grant of \$3M is no longer needed as school districts can now include non-intrinsic costs such as furniture and computers in their bond requests. These changes have effectively made this Facility Grant funding obsolete. SB 1002 would repurpose the remaining funding in the grant to support the work of the SSEM program. Without this bill, current supports to districts for emergency preparedness will expire in September 2023 without state funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have. We urge your support of SB 1002.



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Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Peterson

Legislative Coordinator