

Submitter: Jennifer Ford
On Behalf Of: OSEA Chapter 40
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: HB3383

To the Honorable Senators, The Committee on Education

My name is Jennifer Ford, I have been the State Testing Coordinator and Technology Support for Floyd Light Middle School in the David Douglas School District for the past 15 years. I am also the Vice President of OSEA DDSO Chapter 40.

I am testifying in favor of SB 3383.

It is critical to have the voice of classified on state education boards and commissions, as classified employees make up the majority of student interactions throughout their public education experience. Students daily interactions with classified staff are generally 10:4 when compared to Teacher interactions. The classified employees hands on knowledge are invaluable when considering the challenges that education as a whole face in todays current climate. Classified employees more closely mirror our diverse student population and are relatable in the students eyes.

Passage of Senate Bill 3383 would enable classified voices to contribute to the policy and procedures they are being asked to put in practice. How better to define the expected successes than to have input from someone that is actually walking that path daily and sees first hand the impact of prescribed practices. Passage would also help with recruitment and retention of employees.

The climate has changed in public education and classified employees know beyond a shadow of doubt how the current climate affects our students on a daily basis. Providing this access of inclusion is a step in the right direction to create the change that is so greatly needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Jennifer Ford