

Representative Susan McLain

Oregon House District 29



April 20, 2023

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: Support for House Bill 2609

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing [House Bill 2609](#) in Senate Education today. Unfortunately, I have another Committee obligation when you meet, and I am sending this letter in lieu of public testimony today.

As Co-Chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education, I sponsored HB 2609 at the request of the Oregon Association of Colleges for Teacher Education because it addresses an unfair fee that the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) is planning to assess on Oregon's Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs). **TSPC fee authority is currently scheduled to sunset in 2026 and HB 2609 simply moves that sunset date up.** Passing HB 2609 will guarantee that the potential of additional costs is not looming over Oregon EPPs as they set tuition rates for the next two school years. This is critical to ensure we are **not raising tuition rates for our future teachers, especially with the teacher shortage in Oregon.**

HB 2609 does not revoke any existing funding that TSPC gets as a fee-based program. They have not assessed this fee yet. In addition to being fee-based, TSPC has received general fund dollars of over \$1.7 million in the 21-23 biennium and over **\$2.5 million in the Governor's recommended budget for the 23-25 biennium.**

We are asking EPPs to do more than ever. We want them to develop alternative pathways, focus on Grow Your Own programs, and increase the diversity of the students they enroll. Now is not the time to disincentivize growth for these programs or to raise tuition rates for students wanting to become teachers.

The Legislature's stated goals of improving access, affordability, and diversity, reducing barriers to entry, and growing the teaching profession are not aided by charging EPPs more right now. I ask that you pass HB 2609 and ensure Oregon is not increasing barriers in our efforts to recruit more teachers.

Sincerely,

Susan McLain

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