

February 7, 2024

Rep. Courtney Neron, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4077 – Dash 2 Amendment

Chair Neron and members of the House Committee on Education:

I worked with the Tillamook School District for 17 years as an engineer. I am the President of OSEA Tillamook Chapter 28. I am speaking as a member of OSEA so that you will have a better understanding of why this bill is so important to educators like me. I also serve on my worksite safety committee. Our committee is supposed to review incident reports, investigate reports and make recommendations to prevent future incidents. But although I have been told about the incident reports, I have not seen them. I sometimes get a number to put on the form. I am told it goes into the computer, and once a month the state uploads it from our district.

As a school employee, I can tell you that we are discouraged from filling out reports unless we have pain. If we are injured or assaulted, we need to be able to complete paperwork when the incident is fresh in our minds, so we don't accidentally misrepresent or forget important information that might help prevent such an incident from happening again, either to the same employee or a new one. We need a consistent, statewide process for reporting incidents that we can easily access without relying on individual supervisors.

Help us make it safer for an employee to report these incidents, so legislators and education workers can all understand what is happening in our schools. That is the best way to get the training and information needed to help problem solve so that we can provide a safer learning and working environment for both students and staff. Please support the dash two amendments and a technical fix that includes training to the form criteria so that the state can monitor how well our education workforce is trained.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kau'i Meriwether  
OSEA Tillamook Chapter 28 President  
Tillamook, Oregon