

Submitter: Jaimie Huck

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2596

Hello Representatives, I write to you from my school psychology office in Portland OR. I recognize not everyone has the same life path as I do, which is returning to work in my hometown in the district I attended (Portland Public Schools). School Psychology is not something I knew existed -- a friend who worked in Special Education told me I should look into it. This job is an incredible mix of systems level advocacy and programming, direct assessment of students with disabilities, and being the person to go to for consultation on academics, behaviors, mental health, neurodiversity, interpreting data, and communicating with administrators at the district level. This job is incredibly needed.

I attended Lewis & Clark College for my Education Specialist degree, and I ran into awkwardness when I was asked why I chose LC. The reality was it was the only program in Portland at the time. I believe it is now one of two programs in the area, and there still are only two programs statewide. Most districts are short school psychologists, and I am sure that number is amplified in our more rural communities. Students with disabilities across Oregon deserve to have a practitioner who knows them (vs districts having to bring in contract psychologists who meet the kid a couple of times). Anything that adds more supports to Oregon students is something I will fight for, and I believe this will make it easier and more appealing to have more school psychologists across Oregon.