

February 4, 2025

RE: Written testimony in support of HB 3130

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazan and Pham,

My name is Daniel Jansen, and I serve on the North Lake School Board of Education. This is my second full year as a volunteer board member. To my surprise last year, I was required to submit a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) report for the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. This required me to provide personal information regarding my employment, business interactions, financial information and property assets.

As a school board, we were asked to vote on whether we wished to be compensated for our service to the community. Not one member of our board, a small rural school board, had any interest in receiving compensation. We felt such compensation was inappropriate as we were elected to volunteer, and we did not want to place financial burden on our school budget.

I feel as an unpaid volunteer that I should not be required to file a SEI report. This is an intrusion into my personal life and unnecessary as part of my service to my local community. If I was in a paid position that could influence economic gain from serving in the capacity of an elected official, then this is a warranted requirement.

I was the one of two people to run for two open positions on the board. I was approached by a board member who was retiring after 12 years on the board to take his place because he could not find anyone interested in serving in this position. In our small rural school districts, finding people to serve on school boards can be a major issue.

After some research regarding the SEI filing requirement, I learned that several school districts were in jeopardy of losing school board members because of this disclosure requirement. I too considered resigning. However, I completed the SEI report and decided that I will likely not pursue another term because of this requirement.

I believe many share this sentiment who are unpaid volunteer school board members. I commend Representative Owens for moving this legislation. School board members chose to serve in this capacity to give back to our communities. No one will gain anything from serving in these positions. Being forced to place personal information in public records such as required by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission is personal intrusion and will be detrimental to local school governance.

Thank you all for the work you do for Oregonians,



Daniel Jansen
North Lake School Board Member