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Testimony in Support of HB 3064

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Collectively we are unions representing thousands of frontline workers, including educators, public employees, and healthcare professionals across Oregon. We urge your strong support for HB 3064 because access to comprehensive healthcare—including treatment for perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause—is not a luxury; it is a necessity for thousands of workers and their families.

No one should struggle to access the care they need to manage the effects of menopause. Symptoms such as severe fatigue, cognitive difficulties, depression, and osteoporosis-related risks can have a profound impact on workplace performance and overall quality of life. Yet, current health benefit plans often fail to provide adequate coverage for proven treatments like hormone therapies, antidepressant medications, and osteoporosis prevention and treatment.

HB 3064 will address this gap by:

- **Requiring health benefit plans, including OEBB and PEBB, to cover treatment for perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause.** This ensures that educators and public employees have access to essential care without unnecessary financial barriers.
- **Mandating coverage for critical treatments,** including hormone therapies, antidepressant medications, and osteoporosis-related treatments, which are vital for managing the health impacts of menopause.
- **Protecting this coverage from automatic sunset provisions,** ensuring long-term, stable access to care for affected workers.
- **Applying these protections to health plan contracts beginning January 1, 2026,** giving providers and insurers time to implement these necessary changes.

For too long, menopause-related health needs have been overlooked in our healthcare system, leaving workers to struggle in silence. As a union representing thousands of public employees, we know that access to proper care not only improves individual health outcomes but also strengthens Oregon's workforce by ensuring that employees can continue to thrive in their jobs.

We urge you to support HB 3064 and stand with the workers who keep our state running. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Swanson
SEIU Oregon State Council

Sue Allen
Oregon AFSCME

Cynthia Branger Munoz
Oregon Education Association