



Chair Neron, Vice Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I am testifying on behalf of the Oregon Education Association (OEA), representing more than 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, spanning pre-K through our community colleges. Our members include teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, nutrition specialists, community college faculty and staff, and many others who work tirelessly to support Oregon's students.

OEA supports HB 2511, and its companion bill HB 2510, will address significant gaps in Oregon's public education workforce data.

Currently, Oregon law requires school districts to report detailed information on licensed educators and administrators, but this requirement does not extend to non-licensed (classified) staff, such as educational assistants, custodians, and nutrition specialists. This has created significant gaps in the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) Staff Position File, especially regarding compensation and job classifications. As a result, our policymakers and advocates lack a full understanding of the workforce costs and the diverse contributions of all school employees.

House Bill 2511 would address these gaps by requiring ODE to collect comprehensive data on all public education employees—classified, licensed, and administrative staff. While House Bill 2510 would also include critical details, such as the cost of benefits, to ensure a complete picture of the funding needs for Oregon's schools.

In addition to improving transparency, this data is essential for calculating Oregon's Current Service Level (CSL), which forms the foundation for determining adequate education funding each year. Without complete workforce data, including classified staff and their associated costs, the CSL risks being incomplete, potentially underestimating the true cost of maintaining our schools.

This legislation strikes a careful balance. While we recognize the need to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens on local education agencies, the bill ensures that the data collection process is efficient and targeted to meet state and local needs. By providing complete and accessible workforce data, House Bill 2511 and 2510 will help Oregon align its budgeting processes and advocate more effectively for the resources our schools require.

Thank you for considering this important legislation