

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of HB 2511

February 10, 2025

Vice Chair McIntire, Vice Chair Dobson, and Members of the House Education Committee,

I write in support of House Bill 2511, a committee bill that came from a recommendation from the Joint Task Force on Statewide Educator Salaries I co-chaired during the 2023-2024 interim. **This bill directs the Oregon Department of Education to collect comprehensive workforce data on all school district and education service district employees.**

In our [final Task Force Report](#), are specific problem/solution statement details. I believe that in order to budget accurately as a legislature, we need pay and benefits data for ALL classified, licensed, and administrative positions. Oregon law requires school districts to report comprehensive data on *licensed educators* and *administrators* **but does NOT require the same for *non-licensed* (or classified) employees**. For this reason, there are gaps in the Oregon Department of Education (ODE)'s Staff Position File, particularly regarding compensation. Furthermore, the Staff Position File is not easily accessible to the public.

The current absence of standardized data collection for classified staff hinders our state's ability to accurately calculate the current service level. **The CSL calculation needs to be a stable and transparent assessment of the funding necessary to maintain essential educational services. Inconsistent reporting across districts leads to challenges in evaluating the true costs associated with our education system.**

While the Task Force did pass this recommendation, there were participants who expressed reservations over the potential for this reporting to be an unfunded mandate. It is my hope that the efficiency of reporting classified information with the staff position file reporting will be an alignment that works for our Oregon district and minimize reporting burdens. By expanding the Staff Position File maintained by ODE to include all classified staff, HB 2511 will provide a more complete and accurate picture of our educational workforce and It could inform better alignment between state and local budgeting processes.

I urge your support of HB 2511 to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and transparency of our education budgets. Thank you.

Sincerely,