



Oregon School Employees Association

www.osea.org

State Office: 4735 Liberty Road S, Salem, OR 97302-5036 P: 800-252-6732, 503-588-0121 F: 503-588-8307

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Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Misty Talerico, and I am a member of the Oregon School Employees Association. I am a Secretary for Tillamook Virtual Academy in Tillamook Oregon, Tillamook Chapter 28 Vice President, and OSEA Zone 1 Director. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 3357 to create a universal safety reporting system in our schools.

Eight of the eleven years that I have worked in my district were in special education. During that time, I was hit, kicked, bit, and permanently injured while protecting my one-on-one student from self-harming. Every time I needed an injury reporting form, I had to ask a supervisor who encouraged me not to fill the form out, or was told to "go find it on the T-drive" which I did not have access too. So many of my injuries were not reported. As Vice President in my chapter, I hear all the time that it is too difficult to find and fill out the injury reporting form, so the injury goes undocumented. As Zone Director 1, I hear similar stories from members across state.

Most other industries have a way to report on safety incidents on the worksite. This gives an insight into what the needs are and the workplace trends. Data on safety incidents in our schools varies from district-to-district, school-to-school. Without a universal system to track and report these injuries, educators, districts and legislators have no real way to look at the numbers to determine what our educators need to fully support our students. Creating a standardized, web-based safety reporting system would align public education with most other industries and moves the conversation around safety in our schools from anecdotal to data-driven.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, we respectfully urge an aye vote on HB 3357.

Sincerely,

Misty Talerico

Secretary/General Education Assistant

