

Submitter: Maureen Barnhart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2900

Submitted by Maureen Barnhart, retired Hillsboro SD licensed educator
To the Senate Committee on Education
Testimony in Support of HB 2900-A
May 15, 2025

I'm writing to support HB 2900-A to reduce the probationary period for licensed educators in Oregon.

I was teaching when the legislation was passed that set the probationary periods addressed in this legislation. At the time the evaluation document was one sheet of paper. From that we moved on to handbooks with defined benchmarks for evaluation, and then to the "Effective Educator", which supported teachers in looking at their practice, evaluating what was working, and collaborating with administration to improve as needed, and to share with other teachers practices that were successful.

With the current focus on examining the needs of diverse learning communities, differentiating instruction to meet those needs, and looking to the recommendations from the American Institutes of Research (regarding the QEM), doesn't it seem an unnecessary burden to follow a protocol from the last century?

Struggling teachers can still be counselled by the administrator, placed on a plan of assistance. A teacher continuing after many years in the same district but given an assignment that is completely new may want more support from administration than an experienced and qualified teacher who has transferred from another district or state.

Please have the flexibility to give flexibility to our educators, and pass HB 2900-A.

Respectfully,
Maureen Barnhart