



Date: 02/12/2019

To: Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

From: Kelli Horvath, Government Relations, Oregon Education Association

RE: OEA support for SB 726, the Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Workforce Committee:

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) represents more than 44,000 educators who serve more than 600,000 Oregon students. Our members include educators, specialists, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, and community college faculty and staff from across the state.

OEA supports the Oregon Workplace Fairness Act (SB 726) because of the positive impact it will have on our members, their students, and workers statewide. OEA's membership is made up largely by Oregon's teaching workforce at Oregon's public schools, where seven out of 10 teachers are women. Women are not just disproportionately represented in the teaching workforce; they are also more likely than men to be the victims of sexual harassment.

Oregon students benefit when their teachers work in an environment that allows them to feel safe and supported. By putting in place standards and procedures for employers and employees to better address sexual harassment and expanding the time that harassment allegations can be brought forward, SB 726 will provide educators—and all Oregon workers—with long overdue opportunities to improve workplace culture, protect victims, and hold those who harass and discriminate accountable.

The Oregon Education Association requests the committee's support of SB 726 and thanks Senator Taylor, Senator Knopp, and the committee for your leadership on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelli Horvath

Government Relations

Oregon Education Association