

April 24, 2019

RE: Testimony regarding HB 3263

To Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Susan Stone. I am writing in support of **HB 3263**. I work for Portland Public Schools as the district teacher-librarian, supporting the 82 school library sites in our district. I am also the past chair of the Oregon School Library Standards committee that came before the State Board of Education in 2015 and received the unanimous approval of the library standards that are now listed on the Oregon Department of Education's [Academic Content Standards](#) webpage. The inclusion of the library standards as academic content recognized the importance for information literacy, reading promotion, and digital citizenship for all Oregon students. This recognition is underscored by abundant [research](#) that addresses the impact of a strong library program. Letters and comments from others in support of HB 3263, including some of my colleagues, will testify to the value of librarians and library programs for our students. I too, could continue that advocacy, but here will just focus on why I feel HB 3263 is really just a culmination of ten years of collaboration and conversation with your committee and other state leaders.

The State Board of Education's 2015 recognition of the library standards helped to provide guidance for individual teacher-librarians, for building principals, and for superintendents in terms of expectations for teaching and learning in library science. It's the same for Math, or Health, or Science -- standards provide guidance and set expectations within those programs of study. In Math or another content area, how a school or district coordinates, staffs and provides teaching and learning serves to determine define the strength or weakness of that program. Fortunately, for Math and other academic content areas listed on ODE's webpage, current legislation holds districts accountable for the provision of those standards and programs. **HB 3263** will extend that accountability to Oregon's School Library Standards, and will provide the guidance for school library programs – outlining elements that make for a strong school library program: expert instruction for library standards mastery, professional promotion of literacy experiences that support lifelong reading, coordination of collegial collaboration, and deliberate action to ensure equitable access to diverse collections of resources.

In effect, **HB 3263** is a unifying measure, and will reach back 10 years to bring together these efforts:

- 2009, HB 2586 served to require school districts to account for strong school library programs in their Continuous Improvement Plan (CIPs) for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE);
- 2013, State Board of Education approved updates to Oregon Administrative Rule, [581-022-2250](#), to reflect the school library addition;
- 2015, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the Oregon School Library Standards, and ODE added them as an academic content area for Oregon students; and
- 2019, soon-to-occur presentation of K-14 Learning Goals for each library standard

The full length of my career as a teacher and school librarian has been to provide a strong school library program in my own building, in my district, and as a leader in the state for all our school libraries. In my view, I've not found that the State Board of Education doesn't value or believe the data that shows the impact of a strong school library program. All our work together indicates in fact, that we agree, but the processes to bring efforts together can be detailed and take time. I believe **HB 3263** brings the efforts together, and will serve to provide a clear message that every student in Oregon will not only benefit from a **strong school library program**, but that every student deserves to have access to one.

Please support HB 3263.

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