



Oregon School Employees Association

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House Committee on Rules

Rep. Paul Holvey, Chair

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) represents more than 22,000 workers in nearly all levels of public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs and community colleges. OSEA members perform many of the thankless tasks that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers.

OSEA supports passage of Senate Bill (SB) 1522A, which makes important, timely changes in education-related statutes for Oregon.

SB 1522A is especially important with regard to implementing SB 155 (2019). SB 155 established a significant new framework for investigating potential sexual conduct toward students, including brand new investigative authority for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Aligning a new process at ODE with the existing investigative process at the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission will continue to take effort as ODE looks to begin rulemaking this spring.

It's important to be clear that language in SB 1522A, referring to ODE's closing report on an investigation as a "notification" [SB 155 language in Section 4, (3)] as well as an "investigative report" [new language in Section 4, (4)(d)] **does not direct the department to send multiple documents to education providers**. As Sen. Gelser noted in carrying this bill on the Senate floor, ODE should "harmonize" these references and ensure the needed information is consistently reported to education providers. Having multiple communications to education providers, especially with the potential that they may be inconsistent with each other, is in no one's best interest. It has never been advocated by anyone in discussions regarding SB 155 or SB 1522A. ODE's rulemaking should reflect the conversations of legislators and stakeholders which have never proposed, and do not support, complicating communications to education providers.

Thank you for your attention,

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