



**Date:** March 9, 2021  
**To:** House Education Committee, Chair Alonso Leon and Members  
**From:** Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations  
**RE:** *HB 3236 [Alternative Education Pathways]*

On behalf of OEA's 41,000 members, it is my honor to testify in support of this bill to initiate a broader conversation about all the ways students pursue their education, beyond the traditional setting, and what improvements to our system may be appropriate.

Our public education system has gone through many changes over time, sometimes by design and sometimes by happenstance. What has evolved is a patchwork quilt, particularly on the alternative side, of programs that address students in carceral settings, in hospital and treatment programs, in last-chance alternative schools, and in programs designed to address different ways of learning.

It is time for policymakers to consider in a comprehensive way the programs that exist to learn about what's working and what may not be. We know that funding challenges, governance structures, and other factors have impacts on the quality of opportunity each of these systems may provide.

We look forward to partnering with this work group, should you create it, to bring the best information and ideas forward, in order to better ensure that all our children are able to succeed.

Our thanks to Chair Alonso Leon for her leadership on this project. OEA stands ready to help in any way.

Thank you.