



To: House Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 2962
Date: March 23, 2021

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Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2962, as modified by the -1 amendments.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted learning and closed schools across Oregon since March, 2020. HB 2962-1 would require a study of learning loss experienced by students across Oregon caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill would require a broad approach, inclusive of harm suffered by all types of students in the course of the pandemic.

HB 2962-1 would task the Legislative Policy and Research Office with the responsibility of researching and delivering the report. This approach has a track record of policy success in recent education legislative policy. For a number of sessions, non-partisan staff have been given the direction to study complex legislative issues, including higher education governance, class size best practices, education funding, accountability, and other important topics. COVID-19-related impacts to students, including learning loss and other harm, is an important topic. LPRO staff can take the first step in generating information that can inform future work of education policy makers and stakeholders statewide.

Please support HB 2962-1. Thank you for your time and consideration.