



March 30, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am grateful for the opportunity to address you all this afternoon. My name is Erika Bare and I am the current Chair for the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission and serve the students of the Ashland School District as the Director of Student Services.

I am speaking to you today about my support of HB2135. This important bill will expand the current crimes sanctionable by TSPC to include crimes of domestic violence, and extend the maximum suspension and revocation periods beyond one year.

Part of the responsibility of the TSPC commissioners is to sanction those licensed through TSPC. This is a difficult and critical role of TSPC in ensuring the safety of the students of Oregon. The decisions we make have significant implications for those under review and the students under their current and future care.

Sadly, there have been cases where an educator is being investigated for crimes including domestic violence. The complainant believes these actions are sanctionable under TSPC rules. Unfortunately, we often lack the appropriate nexus, or connection to the actions of the educator and their role. Acts of domestic violence include abuse between family or household members. It is TSPCs believe that such crimes are in direct contradiction of the dispositions required to be an ethical educator.

Also included in HB2135 is the ability to extend a loss of a license to greater than one year. Educators who receive such a sanction have been found to have conducted a very serious act, which could include boundary invasion, physical assault, abuse of alcohol or drugs while caring for students, and other serious violations. Although there are times when one-year sanction is appropriate and sufficient, there are other times where that will simply not be enough time for the educator to demonstrate their ability to care and educate our children.

I am grateful for your time and attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Bare'.

Erika Bare
Teachers Standards and Practices Commission Chair

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