

Coalition of Oregon School Administrators 707 13th Street SE, Ste. 100 Salem, Oregon 97301 Phone 503-581-3141 www.cosa.k12.or.us

March 29, 2021

TO: House Education Committee FR: Parasa Chanramy, COSA RE: Letter of Support for <u>HB 2942</u>

Good afternoon Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Parasa Chanramy and on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we urge you to support House Bill 2942. This bill is focused on i) reducing barriers to be eligible for employment in Oregon's K-12 schools; and ii) helping increase a district's local control over hiring decisions.

Specifically, HB 2942 would <u>remove non-violent</u>, <u>non-person offenses from the list of offenses</u> that permanently prevents someone from being eligible to work in any K-12 setting.

Once the list of offenses is amended, more individuals who have committed non-violent, non-person offenses in their past, been impacted by our justice system, and turned their lives around would be eligible for employment in our K-12 schools.

For our members, HB 2942 is a welcome and long overdue change. The bill would give justice-impacted individuals a second chance, and K-12 employers an opportunity to consider more candidates for employment. Additionally, the bill maintains that K-12 employers will still have the final say in hiring.

There are several cases where K-12 employers would like to hire someone who is from the community and able to connect and relate to students, only to find that they are unable to hire that person due to their past.

We believe that this bill is an important step in striving for restorative justice and helping to provide second chances for individuals who have served their time for non-violent, non-person offenses.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We urge you to pass HB 2942.