



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**

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

February 8, 2021

TO: Senate Education Committee
FR: Morgan Allen, COSA
RE: Testimony in opposition to SB 129

Good afternoon Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Morgan Allen and on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we urge your opposition to SB 129 as currently drafted. This legislation gives too much open ended authority to the Teachers Standards and Commission (TSPC) to levy fees on school districts and education service districts and charge educator preparation program providers new fees.

We appreciate the work that Director Rosilez has undertaken during his time at the agency and can agree with TSPC that the Legislature has asked for an increased role for the agency while its funding structure has not been supported with additional General Fund investments to supplement licensing fees. But the solution to these challenges is not to propose almost limitless authority to charge school districts, education service districts, and educator preparation providers new fees. While this bill may be meant as a conversation starter, the agency should work with the Legislature to identify funding needs and seek additional resources in the Ways and Means process rather than pursuing this approach.

Two portions of the bill are of particular concern for our members. First, the language on page 2, lines 28-33 gives TSPC seemingly unlimited authority to assess an "annual fee" on school districts and education service districts to pay for the work of the agency. By comparison, the Oregon Department of Education has no such authority and it would raise significant objection if they proposed it. We oppose this idea wholly and urge you to reject it.

Second, the language on page 2, lines 20-27 gives TSPC seemingly unlimited authority to assess multiple types of fees on educator preparation providers. In partnership with COSA, Concordia University of Chicago has developed licensure and degree programs to support current and future administrators in Oregon. This rigorous online program offers Principal and Professional Administrator licensure, as well as the opportunity to pursue a master's, education specialist, or doctorate degree. COSA's program, as well as others at colleges and universities in Oregon, would certainly be subject to these new assessments and fees. COSA works diligently to keep our program affordable and this would likely increase the cost to pursue these types of degrees at a time when growing and diversifying the workforce is one of our highest priorities. Cost is too often a barrier for diverse administrative candidates and we need to be thoughtful about potential ramifications from any new fees.

COSA members ask you to reject SB 129 and consider other funding alternatives to support the work and mission of TSPC.