



TO: Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Education Committee

FROM: Jared Mason-Gere, Oregon Education Association Government Relations

RE: Support for SB 667 with -1 amendments

The Oregon Education Association and our 41,000 members in both the K-12 and community college systems across Oregon urge your support for SB 667 with the -1 amendment.

Currently, Oregon statutes are broad and disfavor the employee of education institutions very severely. If an employee's job duties currently in any way include creating the materials in question, they create materials at least in part to serve their duties for their employer, OR were the materials created substantially within work hours/work space---- then the materials belong to the employer rather than the employee.

This has become more confusing in the past year as schools shifted to comprehensive distance learning and many remain in some form of hybrid or distance learning. It's become much more difficult for educators to know the boundaries of what constitutes workspace and what does not.

The pandemic also brought a rise in the use of online platforms to share content as educators had to quickly shift gears and find new and creative ways to connect with their students. We have heard countless examples of stories from our members who have raced to retool their instructional styles, curriculum, and materials for the virtual learning experience. We have also heard from many educators who have shared materials only to be told that they didn't have the right to do that.

I think we all agree that collaboration and the sharing of materials among professionals leads to better products and approaches.

SB 667 would give educators clearly defined authorship and ownership of the educational materials and ultimately the flexibility to best serve their students.

We urge your support for SB 667 with the -1 amendments.