



Testimony in Support of -2 Amendment to SB 111

Senate Committee on Labor and Business

February 23, 2021

Good morning Chair Riley, Vice chair Hansell and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business. I am Marshall Cobra representing the Insight School of Oregon Painted Hills, an Oregon virtual public charter school in the Mitchell School District. I am testifying in support of the -2 amendments.

This issue has traveled more miles in this building without a final resolution than nearly any other that I've worked on. The -2 amendment to SB 111 fixes a problem for out of state employees for charter schools just like SB 201 in the 2017 session did for out of state employees of the higher education system. This amendment is the same as Senate Bill 634-A in the 2019 session. SB 634-A passed the Senate Workforce Committee unanimously and was sent to Ways and Means where it died for lack of a quorum. In 2020 we passed SB 1522-A from the Senate Education Committee, across the Senate floor and through the House Rules Committee where it also died for lack of a quorum.

Th-2 amendment to SB 111 replicates the fix for higher education that was passed in SB 201 in 2017. This bill ensures that contributions made to the pension program and for the Individual Account Program by Oregon's charter schools would be credited to the employees for whose benefit the contributions were made. The common thread defining this group of charter employees are contributions made on behalf of employees by their employer charter schools during a period that these employees and their employers believed they were able to participate in both the pension program and the Individual Account Program. Our amendment to SB 111 will ensure that certain charter school employees, like the higher education employees in 2017, will be treated fairly and in good faith.

PERS staff has been wonderful to work with and they testified in favor of both bills in the past two sessions. This session they actually reached out to me and alerted me to this bill having a hearing early in this session and once again were incredibly helpful to ensure our draft was the appropriate fix for this issue.

We urge your support of this amendment to SB 111.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment and for your tireless commitment to Oregon during these many trying times.

I'm happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.