



Date: February 25, 2021

To: Chair Smith Warner and the House Committee on Rules

Re: OEA support for HB 2992

The Oregon Education Association supports HB 2992.

OEA represents 41,000 education professionals across the state of Oregon. From early learning to community college, from teachers to professors to education service professionals, OEA's members span the entire spectrum of education. Our members also span the economic spectrum. Many part-time faculty, ESP and early education and first-year educators make less than \$30,000 per year.

At its heart HB 2992, is a bill about equity. State boards and commissions are a critical part of the state's infrastructure. They help guide the day-to-day function, rules, and policy of services the state provides. It is imperative that they include voices, perspectives, and experiences from all walks of life. How else can we know how folks who are most affected by a particular change to a rule or service feel about it, unless asked?

We want to encourage all voices in Oregon to be heard and be a part of the process.

But the current structure makes it difficult for low-income folks to participate. It is one thing to be appointed to a board or commission, it is quite another to take time out of one's life – especially if an hour or two of missed work means struggling to pay a bill or put food on the table this month – to participate in said board or commission. Compensating folks for their participation will help ensure that we can elevate and encourage critical voices in our community to be a part of the process.

OEA encourages HB 2992 pass with a "do pass" recommendation.

Louis De Sitter  
OEA, Government Relations  
louis.desitter@oregoned.org