

Thursday, February 3rd, 2022

RE: Public testimony, HB 4030

Dear Representative Alonso Leon and House Education Committee members,

Oregon has moved in critical ways to support children, families, and communities through the Student Success Act and strong attention to educator workforce development led by work stemming from the Oregon Department of Education, Educator Advancement Council, and Teacher Standards and Practices. I fully support HB 4030 as studying the recruitment and retention of educators will further help Oregon realize the goals of the Student Success Act. A robust research literature exists relative to educator workforce development and Oregon will benefit from a study of this work.

I respectfully request consideration that language be added to HB 4030 that tasks a state agency with a biennial educator workforce supply and demand report. With renewed attention to educator workforce development, Oregon needs regular access to detailed information about the educator workforce across all regions of our state. These needs include information about position openings, retirements, license types needed, endorsements needed, trend analyses, by regions across Oregon. We are currently awash in anecdotes and partial information but Oregon children and families deserve more rigorous attention to the development of educators who serve them.

I am aware that the Statewide Longitudinal Data System, led by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, has made substantial progress and will soon be able to provide valuable information to this project. I'm also aware that Teacher Standards and Practices Commission has been working in partnership with the University of Oregon to provide initial information relative to these issues. I'm grateful to the individuals involved in this work. But we should not build systems that are based on volunteerism and good will.

Empirically, nothing is more important to school success outcomes than the qualities and characteristics of the educators in our classrooms. We need access to regular, detailed information about the educator workforce in our state to serve Oregon children, families, and communities. Please consider adding "task a state agency with a biennial educator workforce supply and demand report" to HB 4030.

Sincerely,



Mark Girod
Dean, College of Education
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