

HCR 18 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/9, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and honors Classroom Law Project for 40 years of dedicated service to Oregon’s students, teachers, and communities, expresses gratitude for its commitment to civic education and community betterment, and celebrates its hard work, dedication, and unique role in Oregon.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Student exposure to law and court systems
- Appreciation for the work of the Classroom Law Project
- Role of organization in passing civics education act
- Encouraging student participation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A fundamental tenet of American society is that the success and vitality of democratic government is directly dependent on the full and active participation of its citizens. Civic education encompasses knowledge and understanding of basic principles of Oregon and U.S. government, community process, and active participation in the life of the community through voting, volunteerism, and awareness of current community issues.

Each new generation must learn and experience what it means to live in a constitutional democracy, and Oregon’s classrooms play a crucial role in preparing students for active civic participation in government. The Legislative Assembly has previously recognized the critical importance of civic education through the establishment of Oregon Civics Day for Teachers and the passage of the Civics Education Act.

The Classroom Law Project provides engaging, standards-based and interactive civic education programs for students throughout the State of Oregon, including: We the People Constitution Team classroom content and annual competitions; Mock Trial classroom programs and annual competitions; Courthouse Experience Tours, which provide direct access to the judicial process; Weekly Current Events, highlighting crucial issues of the day and tools for teaching them; Community Action Projects that allow students to consider issues in their communities and engage with stakeholders on possible solutions; and numerous other classroom and field opportunities for students to learn about their roles, opportunities, and responsibilities as active members of their communities

Classroom Law Project provides quality professional development for teachers through the annual Oregon Civics Conference for Teachers in collaboration with the Legislative Assembly and the state Department of Education, the annual Summer Institute, and ongoing workshops, seminars, classroom visits, and one-on-one consultations. The Classroom Law Project reaches thousands of students and teachers in every part of Oregon each year, including 1,192 teachers and 119,987 students in the 2021-2022 school year.

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Classroom Law Project brings together members of the legal, education, business, and other communities to ensure the success of civic education in Oregon, working with hundreds of dedicated volunteers. It is a recognized and trusted partner for the state Department of Education as well as schools, school districts, education service districts, and graduate programs of education throughout this state.

Classroom Law Project is nationally recognized as a leader in civic education. 2023 marks the Classroom Law Project's 40th anniversary as a nonprofit organization providing civic education in Oregon.

House Concurrent Resolution 18 recognizes and honors the Classroom Law Project for 40 years of dedicated service to Oregon's students, teachers, and communities, expresses gratitude for its commitment to civic education and community betterment, and celebrates its hard work, dedication, and unique role in Oregon.