



January 23, 2023

To: House Committee on Education
From: Oregon Education Association
Re: Testimony for HB 2281

Dear Chair Neron and members of the House Committee on Education,

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-k to community colleges. Our members are teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, nutrition specialists, community college professionals and more.

OEA supports the idea behind HB 2281 regarding civil rights coordinators, however we want to caution moving forward without funding to support this critical work.

The importance of designating someone at the district who can do things such as investigating a complaint, oversee efforts to avoid occurrence of discrimination and implement the district's discrimination complaint process cannot be understated.

We believe that this work must be done to ensure that students, educators and all who are part of our education system be served by creating an environment where all can thrive, however, we want to also make sure that we are mindful of ensuring that as we prioritize this work, we also allocate funding to support it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michele Ruffin

Oregon Education Association