

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 26



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Testimony in Support of HB 2708**

February 2nd, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

Thank you for the opportunity to express strong support for HB 2708 to declare the first full week in March as Classified School Employees Week.

As a teacher and a parent, I have said many times that school secretaries are the heartbeat of the school. Our custodians keep our schools clean and maintained. Our I.T. Departments keep our technology up to speed, our paraeducators support all the work of learning and playing, and so many I haven't mentioned yet ensure that students are safe, cared for, and fed.

Professional classified school employees work in nearly all levels of Oregon public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs, community colleges and special districts. As professionals and educators, classified employees perform many of the vital duties daily that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers.

These frontline workers are the most diverse component of the professional education workforce and are the most reflective of the communities that they serve and as such, Classified workers are overcoming systemic barriers to access and inclusion, both in the workplace and in their daily lives. On average, Classified employees make between \$20,000 and \$30,000 annually and the majority are care-givers to at least one generation, many are taking care of two. While their work is often unrecognized, these dedicated educators do important jobs that are essential to our schools.

No matter the size of the school district, Classified school employees give their best effort to make a quality education experience for all Oregon's children. From Pendleton to Klamath, from Astoria to Coos Bay, from Fossil to Prairie City, classified workers served throughout the pandemic, ensuring that students had school bus delivered meals from our cafeteria and nutrition specialists.

Thank you for your time today, please join me in honoring our classified employees who keep our schools running by declaring the first full week in March as Classified School Employees Week. I urge your support and passage of HB 2708.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Courtney Neron

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,  
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain