

Submitter: Claudia Andrews
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2753

As a school board member in Oregon, I can understand the initiative to provide stipends for school board members. It is hard to recruit people to these positions, even more difficult to reach a diverse constituency. I mourn the general lack of commitment to public service. I spend probably 5 to 10 hours per week on school board activities. I am only able to make that level of commitment because I am retired and don't need a source of income in order to participate. However, as a taxpayer, I'm appalled that my tax dollars could pay up to \$12,000 per year to board members. And with seven board members, that could add up to \$84,000 per year. That money could be better spent on teachers or other direct supports to students. As a compromise, I would suggest a cap of \$500 per person per month, and perhaps some acknowledgement that board members who are more involved in district activities should get a higher amount than those who only attend board meetings. An amount as high as \$1000 per month would draw individuals to run for the board who may be focused on the money only. I think it is too much and puts the district in an awkward position. All board members are members of the budget committee by definition and would be in the unethical position of approving their own compensation when they approve the budget. This proposal is fraught with messiness. Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.