

Submitter: Sara Crawford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2753

Chair Neron and House Education Committee Members:

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Oregon and for serving on the education committee.

My name is Sara Crawford and I serve as a board member on the Phoenix-Talent School board and as OSBA Legislative Policy Committee Representative for the Southern Region, I am writing to you today with my personal view in opposition to HB2753.

I'm speaking for ours and similar rural school districts whose budget could be seriously impacted by this bill, should it pass. While the bill states that the board member stipend is optional, it could quickly set up a system of "have and have-nots" since larger school districts with greater tax revenue would be more likely able to afford such a budget item.

\$1000 per school board member x 12 months = \$12,000 x 7 board members = \$84,000, which is more than one full-time position in the Phoenix-Talent School District. This may seem like a small amount for larger districts, but for rural districts like Phoenix-Talent, who are recovering from the pandemic and other recent challenges, this amount would have a significant impact and take away from services rural school districts provide our students.

We then run the risk of ending up with some school districts who are able to pay elected officials for their services and some that cannot, further widening the already present equity gap between students who live in certain districts over others.

In a year where we're fighting for every education dollar for the students, in my opinion, this does not seem like a good use of funding.

Sincerely,
Sara Crawford