



## **Oregon School Employees Association**

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February 14, 2023

Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 283-3 Amendments

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Sarah Wofford and I am the president of Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). I come from southern Oregon where I have worked at Rogue Community College for 12 years as a classified accounting specialist.

On behalf of the over 23,000 members of OSEA in all 36 Oregon counties in nearly all levels of Oregon public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, education service districts, special districts like parks and rec, and community colleges, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the dash three amendments to SB 283.

The dash three amendments to SB 283 represent a meaningful state directive that acknowledges classified employees as a vital group of frontline workers whose service has supported all of Oregon's students, including some of the most economically and medically fragile members in the system.

Classified employees represent the most diverse component in the professional public education workforce, representing racial, cultural, language, age and geographic diversity. Earning average wages between \$20-30,000, annually.

SB 283's dash three amendments:

Section 6, (2) The addition of "just cause" establishes a floor that remedies a historic oversight for our class of public employees by providing a clear process that ensures quality educators are only removed for sufficient reasons and expectations have been clearly identified by the employer. Thereby increasing the quality of life for professional classified employees.



I would also like to thank the chair for several other parts in SB 283:

- The addition of a 20% special education differential that includes classified employees that work giving significant special education support. However, we would still like to see the definition of “significant support” be defined as 51% of a workday.
- Identifying the need for a representative of classified employees in the creation of a task force to do deeper work to develop a more standardized pay rate for licensed or professional classified educators. As you may know, currently in the state, classified employees only have representation on one board or commission that shapes education policy in Oregon.
- Lastly, I would like to thank the Senate Committee on Education for answering the call to address the critical staffing levels in many public education positions. By investing in the quality of employment of these vital roles, we believe the rate of retention and recruitment of classified employees will increase, so that together, we may support a higher quality public education experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

Sincerely,

Sarah Wofford  
OSEA President