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To: House Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 2703
Date: March 6, 2023

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson, members of the committee:

On behalf of the OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 2703.

With the passage of [SB 580](#) in 2021, class size bargaining was made a mandatory subject of bargaining. Specifically, the bill made “class size and caseload limits in schools that qualify for assistance under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.” These schools are given the “Title I” designation by serving high numbers or high percentages of [children from low-income families](#).

The decision to focus these bargaining changes on Title I schools was a deliberate decision to support the educators teaching some of Oregon’s most vulnerable students. It is in keeping with Oregon’s [stated equity goals](#). And the chief proponent of this targeted policy was [then-Speaker Kotek](#).

House Bill 2703 would remove that targeting and make all class size and caseloads mandatory bargaining subjects. This is a bad policy proposal. Continuing to uplift our educators teaching the neediest students is crucial. Furthermore, there is no evidence that broadly mandating a new subject of bargaining will actually address the alleged underlying challenge of large class sizes. Large class sizes, where they occur, are addressed by hiring more educators and staff. This requires increased investment and continued effort to make the work of educators more rewarding. Moving bargaining law, rather, moves money around, in the form of “overload payments” or other similar clauses. Finally, this is the wrong time for this consideration, as we are in the midst of a [historic disenrollment](#) in our public K-12 schools.

For your reference, I have uploaded testimony from SB 580 (2021), which contains further policy information about why broadly mandating class size and caseload bargaining is wrong for Oregon. Please oppose HB 2703.