

March 6th, 2023

TO: Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Wright and Hudson, Members of the House Committee on Education

RE: Support of HB 3031 and advocating for K-12 Indoor Air Quality

To Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Wright and Hudson, and the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for hearing this bill and the opportunity to provide testimony. The American Federation of Teachers – Oregon represents over 18,000 members across the education workforce of Oregon, including classified K-12 staff in Hillsboro, Portland, Scappoose, and more. Nationally as well as in Oregon, our labor federation has been in stalwart support of efforts that improve air quality and healthy classrooms for students, staff, and teachers. AFT-Oregon strongly encourages your support of HB 3031.

The past decade we have seen the importance of indoor air-quality in the Pacific Northwest more than ever before due to expanded wildfires, the pandemic, pollution, construction, and changing environmental conditions due to climate change. Peer-reviewed studies consistently demonstrate that poor indoor air quality can contribute to student underperformance and potentially contribute to long-term chronic health conditions into adulthood. Our members know this far too well. This bill does several helpful things for Oregonians in K-12 alongside the skilled workers who will implement air quality and ventilation systems, including:

- Requiring Indoor Air Quality Assessments of K-12 School facilities every 5 years.
- Require the use of carbon dioxide monitors in all K-12 buildings.
- Promotes career and education opportunities through apprenticeship alongside minimum labor standards.
- Promotes the utilization and leverage of Federal Funding to help Oregon's K-12 schools.
- Help make the changes needed to reduce energy and power consumption in schools.
- Reduce the spread of air borne disease.

We hope the Committee sees these and many other benefits in HB 3031 and joins us in support of this impactful piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Andrea Haverkamp, PhD
Political Organizer
American Federation of Teachers - Oregon