



March 6, 2023

To: Chair Neron
Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson
Members of the House Committee on Education

FR: Lorne Bulling, Ironworkers Local 29

RE: HB 3031 Support

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 3031. The Ironworkers Local 29 represents more than 1,700 Journeyworkers and registered apprentices in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our members work on projects in both urban and rural areas of our state and are a critical part of the skilled local workforce that builds our schools, hospitals, housing, green energy infrastructure and other essential parts of our state's built environment.

Local 29 is a strong advocate for workplace and building safety standards. Yet, despite efforts from school employees and their unions to improve building safety and indoor air quality in their classrooms and school buildings—many problems still exist that cause unhealthy indoor air quality and related issues that harm students and workers. HB 3031 will require Indoor Air Quality assessments of K-12 School facilities every five years and a review done by an independent third-party mechanical engineer to ensure the proper corrections are made for the best results.

As written, House Bill 3031 will:

- Apply labor standards to the ensuing work, including providing prevailing wage and providing on the job training opportunities for registered apprentices;
- Direct the school district to undertake corrective repairs or upgrades, if any are needed to meet the mechanical specialty code;
- Utilize existing building code, not write new or higher-threshold codes;
- Promote healthy and safe learning and working environments for both the students and staff;
- Leverage federal funding so school districts are not asked to shoulder the cost HB 3031.

HB 3031 is a common-sense solution to address indoor air quality and other potential corrective repairs or upgrades in our schools. The legislation also supports family wage jobs, career opportunities through registered apprenticeship, and helps to maximize school and state budgets by leveraging federal funding—we urge you to support HB 3031.