



March 23, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Oregon Education Association

RE: Support for SB 275 with -4 amendment

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee,

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-k to community colleges. Our members are classroom teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, school counselors, community college professionals and more.

On behalf of our members, the OEA would like to register our support for the goals of SB 275 with the -4 amendment posted on OLIS. First and foremost, we want to share with the committee our interest in partnering in these ongoing conversations as we navigate the important next steps to consider with regard to the Oregon Department of Education, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission and the Educator Advancement Council.

The EAC was created to ensure Oregon has well supported and culturally responsive educators in every classroom, and the body does tremendous work through the regional educator networks (RENs), many of which our members are an integral part as innovators to support the professional learning, recruitment and retention strategies. That said, as we venture forward to explore solutions for cost savings, better alignment of work, and strengthened communications across state entities, we want to ensure that we engage and be informed by educator voices as directly impacted professionals in this.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michele Ruffin

Government Relations Consultant

Oregon Education Association