



Oregon School Employees Association

www.osea.org

State Office: 4735 Liberty Rd S, Salem, OR 97302-5036

P: 800/252-6732, 503/588-0121 F: 503/588-8307

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House Committee on Education

Rep. Courtney Neron, chair

Dear Chair Neron and committee members:

The Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) represents about 23,000 workers in nearly all levels of public education, including Head Start programs, K-12 school districts, ESDs, community colleges and special districts. OSEA members perform many of the essential tasks that keep Oregon public schools safe and functional for students, administrators and teachers.

Our membership includes staff at some of Oregon's Juvenile Detention Education Programs and Youth Corrections Education Programs (JDEP/YCEP), and OSEA is pleased to offer our support for House Bill (HB) 3595, which would address a recurring challenge with funding the operations of these critical, but often-overlooked, programs.

Providing a quality public education post-pandemic is extremely challenging, but certainly no more so than for the staff of YCEP and JDEP programs, who serve students who are coming into the programs with even more challenging circumstances than we see in standard school districts. The situation is made even worse by an outdated and inaccurate funding model. Although it's been held together through commendable efforts by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and several other key advocates in Oregon's public education community, it's past time to enact a solution like HB 3595.

Although it has taken time to find a solution to the funding situation for YCEP and JDEP, the time invested in doing so has produced a sound and stable plan that prudently manages funds while accounting for the realities of the specialized populations and circumstances that these programs must address. In concert with all of the advocates who've engaged in the work of the last several years to provide stable funding for our critical YCEP and JDEP programs, **OSEA strongly urges this committee to pass HB 3595.**

Thank you for your attention,

Bob Estabrook

Government Relations Specialist

bobe@osea.org

503-508-5203