



La Grande

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 24, 2023

Dear State of Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to advocate for the renewal and passage of Oregon Senate Bill 1002 (School Safety & Emergency Management Program). As a public school district administrator, I can testify that our rural eastern Oregon School District and many others in our region have significantly benefited from the staff and services provided by this program. With the support of the School Safety & Emergency Management program we have been able to achieve the following over the last five years:

- Conduct school site safety assessments at all district facilities
- Complete district and school site risk assessments
- Significantly update our Emergency Operations Plan
- Receive necessary feedback on our Communicable Disease and COVID-19 Operations plans
- Training staff on response to safety threats and reunification procedures
- Received regular federal and state safety update
- Secure regional FEMA training (MGT 417: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers)
- Develop trauma-informed early-elementary training tools on school safety protocols
- Increased resources and supplies for school emergency response

For small rural districts that cannot individually employ these experts, this bill would maintain what has become an essential state resource in an era of endless safety threats and school shootings. These services are an effective way that the legislature can continue to prioritize student safety and reduce the impact of school violence on children. I urge you to pass SB 1002 to provide school staff the tools they need to successfully maintain safe schools, and the tools they require when everything goes wrong and they are called upon to be heroes and keep kids safe.

Sincerely,

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