



March 30, 2023

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyndall Mason, I am a public affairs consultant for the Oregon Education Association. We represent more than 41,000 educators, classified staff, and specialists in Oregon's public K-12 and Community College systems. This testimony is regarding SB 1075.

The Oregon Education Association would like to urge your support of SB 1075 and the establishment of media literacy programming. As a state we are currently grappling with literacy in an unprecedented way, leaving out media literacy programming in our schools would be an oversight on the part of the legislature.

As the world around us changes faster and faster it is becoming more important than ever that our students are prepared to deal with all the various forms of media they will encounter. Learning to read is only the first step in literacy. Understanding technology and being savvy at discernment are crucial components to being able to take in and understand the world around us now.

With ODE setting standards and offering technical supports our schools, and our librarians, will be able to support our students in the lifelong journey that is literacy. Without the framework and support from the Department of Education, schools are left to fend for themselves in a rapidly changing world. This means that only the most well-funded schools and the students who attend them, will have access to the power that is media literacy. If we want to set Oregon up for success, we absolutely need to invest in access for all students and educators.

Thank you for your time today and your consideration of SB 1075, we urge you to move this bill forward so we can take the next steps in literacy that our student and educators need.

Sincerely,
Kyndall Mason
Public Affairs Consultant, Oregon Education Association