

Submitter: Erin Gudge

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: HB2753

I am a current school board director in the Philomath School District. The views expressed are mine alone and not reflective of our district or board as a whole.

I am giving testimony in a neutral position for this bill. I recognize that is an odd stance. I have a firm belief that district dollars should be spent to support students and employees. I ran for office with the understanding that it was an unpaid position. I will decline any stipend if offered. We are experiencing a funding shortfall that will result in state-wide loss of programming and layoffs.

However, I also recognize that there are many qualified individuals who do not run for office because they cannot afford to hold an unpaid position that requires the amount of time that a school board director position requires. These are also many of the individuals we need to hear from the most. The best thing for our districts is to have a board that represents the true demographics of the district.

Best of luck in your decision-making process.