



April 25, 2023

TO: Senate Committee on Education
FR: Richard Donovan on behalf of OSBA and Morgan Allen on behalf of COSA
RE: HB 2240 Testimony

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), we write to express support for HB 2240.

In the 2021, the enactment of HB 2359 into law required the creation of a translation system for healthcare professionals. Rep. Andrea Salinas, now representing Oregon's 6th congressional district, was then the representative from HD 38. She championed the passage of the bill. Among other things, the bill requires licensure boards for listed healthcare professions to make rules requiring those professionals to participate in the use of the translation system. Failure to do so could lead to professional sanctions for those individuals.

In 2021, the discussion in legislative hearings never considered the education system. School districts employ healthcare professionals, including nurses, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists. These healthcare professionals work for schools, not in a hospital or traditional healthcare setting. School district employees were never intended to be included in the scope of the original measure.

In discussion with Rep. Salinas, it became clear that the cleanest resolution to this challenge would be exempting school employees from the requirements of HB 2359 (2021). This bill, HB 2240, does just that. It is a technical fix that is consistent with the intent of the original legislation. Rep. Salinas, before leaving her HD 38 seat, drafted a letter endorsing this course of action. That letter is separately part of the record for your reference.

Please support the passage of HB 2240.

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