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April 26, 2023

Chair Courtney Neron  
Vice-Chairs Zach Hudson and Boomer Wright  
Members of the House Education Committee

**[RE: SB 275-A5 - Improving Alignment Among State Education Agencies](#)**

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the House Education Committee,

On behalf of Foundations for a Better Oregon, we would like to offer concern with the -A5 amendment to SB 275, which seeks to accelerate the deadline for the findings outlined in Section 2 of the A-Engrossed version of the bill.

Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO) is a project of Oregon's five largest foundations, working to ensure Oregon's public systems support every child to learn, grow, and thrive. Over more than a decade of work, FBO has invested in efforts to support and uplift the voices of Oregon educators, understanding that a diverse and well supported educator workforce is critical to meeting our goals for Oregon children.

The Educator Advancement Council (EAC) was created in 2017 to ensure Oregon has high-quality, well supported, and culturally responsive educators in every classroom. This innovative body was designed to align strategies and investments into a sustained and cohesive effort to ensure Oregon's K-12 and early childhood workforce is supported from recruitment through retirement with robust preparation and ongoing professional learning.

SB 275A directs the Department of Education and the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to consult with the EAC to develop significant findings related to the appropriate roles of each body in supporting and overseeing the public education workforce of this state, improving alignment and coordination, and potentially recommendations for merging or reorganizing state agencies.

Given the significance of this work to the state's educator workforce, the breadth of the charge, the need for collaboration across two state agencies and the EAC, and the **critical importance of engaging teachers, administrators and other education stakeholders, 4-6 months is not a sufficient amount of time to do the work thoughtfully and inclusively.**

**We urge the House Education Committee to reject the -A5 amendment and move the bill forward with the 2024 deadline.**

Sincerely,

Whitney Grubbs  
Executive Director  
Foundations for a Better Oregon

