



May 3, 2023

Good evening Chairs Sanchez and Steiner, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee. For the record, my name is Enrique Farrera, I am a community college academic and career advisor, and I proudly serve as the Vice-President of the 41,000 member Oregon Education Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about 2 of OEA's priorities this session:

- Funding the **true Current Service Level** for K12 education, and community colleges  
AND
- Senate Bill 283's **investments in the education workforce**.

The vision of the OEA is to improve the future of all Oregonians through quality public education. It's important to have fully-funded schools to bring stability to the community. Strong public education creates a strong economy in our local communities.

Funding the true current service level in the next biennium means that districts and community colleges won't be forced to make cuts to programs and staffing at a time when our students' needs are urgent.

As you know, Oregon is facing an education workforce crisis. Many Oregon students are learning in understaffed schools, aren't receiving the support they need, and are in class sizes that are too large. Senate Bill 283 gives us a path forward with a set of comprehensive solutions. OEA urges you to support:

- Investments in **mentorship and apprenticeship** programs
- A task force on **educator wages** so Oregon can recruit and retain great educators
- Increasing job security for all school employees with **Just Cause protections**.

Please support a true CSL budget for K12 education and community colleges so that Oregon students can have the strong public education they deserve. And I urge you to invest in Senate Bill 283 to build a strong professional workforce of educators in the coming years.

Thank you.