



February 7, 2024,

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the Committee on Education,

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 urges you to support House Bill 4077, a crucial initiative that will help our MESD members along with other educators in the state.

HB 4077 helps workers by increasing access to incident forms by creating an online form that educators can fill out on their smartphones and computers. If passed, the bill codifies the 2023 Interim Incident Reporting Work Group, requiring the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to work with a group of stakeholders to create a "method" (online form, process, and database), so that classified and licensed educators will have greater access to incident report forms.

Educators experience short workdays with little time away from students, low staffing levels, language barriers with paper forms, and fear of retaliation for reporting injuries in their workplace, which can all make it difficult to report injuries.

This substantial changes outlined in HB 4077 would allow our members and other educators in the state to force accountability for pervasive injury issues across the state. Currently, the state of Oregon only tracks injuries that are identified as catastrophic (injuries causing loss of limb, eye, bone, hospitalization, or death) and accepted disabling claims (injuries causing a worker to be released by a doctor for three or more days).

A standard statewide incident form that adds state oversight is essential to keeping educators like you safe on the job while giving state decision-makers more information on what happens in schools regularly. The addition of a dash three amendment to include trainings on the form will be important to capture in an incident form, due to the amount of educators injured on the job. HB 4077 moves the state conversation about incidents in public education from an anecdotal to data-driven, which gives decision-makers a better understanding of the rate and acuity of the incidents in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Oregon AFSCME Council 75