

January 27, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Education
Chair Frederick
Vice-Chair Weber

Re: Support for SB 233 Relating to Seismic Rehabilitation Memorial Plaques for
Schools

Dear Chair Frederick and Vice-Chair Weber,

I support SB 233 honoring Senator Courtney for his contribution in funding seismic safety for schools. I would like to note that falls several days past the anniversary of the most recent Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that happened 325-years ago. When Oregon understood the risks from this earthquake, the State adopted codes in the early 1990's to ensure the safety of new and renovated buildings going forward. The building code does not require that existing building to be upgraded to meet current code.

Senator Courtney recognized that existing public schools, especially those constructed of bricks and mortar, were particularly vulnerable, leaving our children at risk. To encourage investment in seismic upgrades, he initiated legislation creating the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP) and saw it through implementation and funding. The SRGP has awarded 346 school projects for a total of \$596,696,490.

It is fitting that Senator Courtney's sustained effort to create and fund the Oregon Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program be memorialized by a plaque at the front entrance of schools. It signals that the building has, in fact, been made safer from an earthquake. It also shows that as a champion for this legislation, he made a difference in protecting the lives of Oregonians.

Sincerely,



Jay Raskin, FAIA
Past Chair of OSSPAC

cc: File