

Representative Susan McLain

House District 29



January 28, 2025

RE: Support for House Bill 3041 in the House Committee on Education

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 3041** and encourage you to pass it out of the House Committee on Education. HB 3041 is one of my top priority bills this session. It is a technical bill with no fiscal impact that removes the requirement for an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between agencies, districts, and educational service districts in establishing Educator Advancement Council (EAC) membership. As an EAC Liason Director since 2016, I have seen firsthand the significant and positive impacts of EAC's work in support of educators across Oregon. HB 3041 simply gives the EAC the administrative tools necessary to function pragmatically and efficiently to prioritize programmatic outcomes that improve our education system.

The EAC's work over the last seven years epitomizes the core mission of the Oregon Department of Education, which is to foster equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities. The Council oversees ten **Regional Educator Networks (RENs)** across the state that provide open access to high-quality and culturally responsive professional learning and support for educators. The RENs are impactful because they center teacher voices and uniquely local contexts, and they maximize collaborative leadership among educators and administrators to provide infrastructure, technical assistance, professional development, and funding for targeted investments. The EAC's work to expand opportunities for educators with programs like the **Grow Your Own (GYO) Educator Partnership** demonstrates how impactful innovative thinking and programming can be. This teacher recruitment and training program, with 108 partnerships throughout the state, is focused on addressing the conditions affecting the recruitment and retention of educators across the career continuum. The individual programs support paraprofessionals, teacher cadets, and others entering or already enrolled in teacher preparation programs. They promote interest in the educator profession and diversify the teaching pool by creating affordable, regional pathways into education and recruiting our future teachers from within their home communities. The EAC has also partnered with our Tribal Nations to establish the Tribal Nations Grow Your Own programs to increase the number of highly qualified American Indian/Alaska Native educators and administrators.

Overseeing the RENs and creating GYO Educator Partnerships are just two examples of the many programmatic successes the EAC has had since its founding. However, implementing the organization as an intergovernmental entity has been challenging due to administrative processes that require significant resources to maintain. Specifically, the current requirement of an Intergovernmental Agreement for membership changes takes valuable time away from the Council's core work. Removing this requirement will significantly improve administrative processes, create cleaner statutory guidance, and reduce administrative costs while boosting efficiency. This translates to more time to focus on critical tasks like greater transparency, increased collaboration opportunities, and ensuring the Council can work more effectively towards its overall goals of supporting and advancing even greater opportunities for educators.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the critical work of the EAC and for considering the technical change we can make to ensure that supporting educators remains the Council's primary focus. Please contact me directly if you'd like to discuss the EAC's programming further and the need for the changes outlined in HB 3041.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan McLain'.

Representative Susan McLain