

February 2nd, 2025
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GEORGE FOX
UNIVERSITY

Regarding: Testimony in Support of the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP)

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

My name is Jenelle Stone, and I am a school psychologist currently serving two schools and two school districts in Oregon. I have worked in multiple districts across the state of Oregon, including the Linn Benton Lincoln ESD, and have substituted for school psychologists on maternity leave. In addition to my work in K-12 schools, I have taught school psychology courses and currently serve as a professor at George Fox University.

Through my experience, I have seen firsthand the critical shortage of school psychologists in Oregon. The reality is that school psychologists play an essential role in student success, yet many districts struggle to fill positions for years. For example, I work for the Fern Ridge School District as that is where my children attend school, and they have for years been trying to school a school psychologist in vain. It is even more difficulty when a school psychologist is on leave, it puts significant pressure on the remaining professionals, making it difficult to provide timely evaluations, behavioral interventions, and mental health support for students.

I have personally held licenses in Oregon, Alaska, and California, and I know how burdensome and time-consuming the process can be. The delays and hurdles discourage qualified professionals from relocating to states with high needs, further exacerbating the shortage.

This is why I strongly support Oregon joining the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP). The ICSP would create a streamlined pathway for licensed school psychologists to practice across participating states without lengthy delays.

By adopting the ICSP, Oregon would be taking a proactive step toward addressing the school psychologist shortage, improving access to services for students, and reducing the burden on already overstretched professionals. I urge the legislature to support this initiative for the benefit of Oregon's schools, educators, and, most importantly, students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenelle Stone".

Jenelle Stone, School Psychologist, Director of Educational Leadership George Fox University

Licensed Professional Counselor (#C6324)

Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission Licenses:

Administrator PreK-12 License # 10485576

School Psychologist PreK-12 License # 10501134

PhD Learning Assessment/System Performance

MA Counseling Psychology

MS School Psychology

MS Special Education