

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 26**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Testimony in Support of HB 2596**

January 3, 2025

Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of our House Education Committee,

I write to you today in **support of HB 2596, which proposes that Oregon join the School Psychologist Interstate Compact**. As a State Representative and career classroom teacher, I recognize the urgent need to address Oregon's shortage of school psychologists, particularly at a time when student mental health support is more critical than ever.

Oregon's schools are facing increasing demands for mental health services, yet our ability to recruit and retain qualified professionals remains a challenge. Currently, Oregon has just one school psychologist for every 1,448 students—nearly three times higher than the research-based recommendation of 1:500<sup>1</sup>.

As ratios climb, school psychologists are increasingly limited in the services they can provide to students. Additionally, this shortage disproportionately affects rural and underserved communities, where students often lack access to essential psychological support. By joining this interstate compact, Oregon can streamline the licensure process, allowing qualified professionals from other member states to practice here without unnecessary delays.

**This compact supports Oregon's military families and qualified professionals.** Many school psychologists are military spouses or individuals who relocate due to family or career obligations. By reducing barriers to professional mobility, we allow these skilled individuals to continue their careers while ensuring our students receive the care they need.

**HB 2596 strengthens our education system, expands our mental health workforce, and enhances Oregon's commitment to student well-being.** It is a commonsense solution to a pressing issue. I respectfully urge the Committee to support this measure and advance it through the legislative process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Courtney Neron  
*House District 26: King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Wilsonville*

<sup>1</sup> National Association of School Psychologists, [nasponline.org](https://nasponline.org), [State Shortages Data Dashboard](#)