

Submitter: Natasha I
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2900

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Rep. Dobson, and Members of the Committee

I am writing to express my support for the proposal to reduce the teacher probationary period. As a dedicated educator, I believe this change will improve retention, support professional growth, and ultimately benefit our students. By reducing the probationary period, teachers will have the protections that come with a contract sooner, helping them stay in the communities they serve and build stronger connections with students, families, and colleagues.

Currently, the probationary period for teachers in Oregon is longer than that of other professions that require similar levels of education. Many other professions with comparable training and education, such as healthcare and law, have probationary periods of 6 months to a year. By reducing the probationary period for teachers, we can align our expectations with those in other fields and create a more fair and efficient process.

This bill also includes an important safeguard for administrators by allowing them to extend the probationary period by 60 days if needed, mirroring practices in Washington state. This gives schools the flexibility to ensure a teacher is the right fit while still providing teachers with the support they need to succeed in their role.

In my experience, I moved from a public charter school to the Education Service District, then back to a school district. In my ninth year of teaching, I entered the probationary period, with none of those experiences contributing to my success. As an Educator of Color (EOC), I felt “cheated” by the system to essentially start all over again.

In closing, reducing the probationary period for teachers will ensure that qualified and committed educators stay in our schools, strengthen their ties to the communities they serve, and make a positive impact on students. I urge you to support this bill for the benefit of teachers, students, and Oregon's education system.

In Solidarity,
Natasha Inafuku
Hillsboro School District
K-12 Teacher