



Chair Neron, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I am a Public Affairs Consultant for the Oregon Education Association (OEA). On behalf of OEA's more than 41,000 members—educators in every corner of the state who serve Oregon's students in our public schools and community colleges—I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of HB 2588, which would establish and fund a sustainable teacher apprenticeship pathway.

Oregon continues to face a critical educator shortage, and the financial and structural barriers to entering the profession make it difficult to build a stable and sustainable workforce. Traditional teacher preparation programs often require extensive unpaid student teaching, making it challenging for many aspiring educators to complete their training. HB 2588 provides a practical, workforce-driven solution by formalizing the Educator Apprenticeship Program, allowing individuals to gain hands-on classroom experience while earning a living wage.

This program has already demonstrated success in Oregon by creating an accessible and supportive pathway for aspiring educators. However, without dedicated funding and legislative support, it cannot expand to meet the growing needs of our schools. HB 2588 would provide the necessary resources to sustain and grow this program, ensuring a stronger pipeline of educators prepared to serve Oregon's students.

The return on investment in HB 2588 is clear: a high-quality education for students and a stable, well-supported workforce for Oregon's schools. By investing in a structured and sustainable apprenticeship model, the state can remove barriers to the teaching profession, attract talented individuals, and build a more resilient public education system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of HB 2588. Thank you for your time and consideration.