

February 22, 2025

Dear Oregon Legislator-

I am writing to encourage you to support Oregon children and their education by supporting Bill # 323 in support of Oregon Substitute Teachers.

As a guest teacher myself, I can assure you that there are many improvements that can be made in Oregon education and for Oregon Subs, but these Bills are an essential start to a process that will ideally bring more functionality and professionals into service.

As a professional from another field, I have taught throughout my life, originally starting at Portland Community Colleges in the late 1980's. Now I live a more rural life and pursue things at a different pace, however, since 2020 I've been an Oregon Licensed substitute and have been doing my best to give back to my local rural communities by sharing years of professional experience and education with those children in rural areas. I can tell you that they need our help!

With the reduction of standards in education, the outsourcing of substitutes as represented in his Bill 323, the shortage of substitutes, the chronic dysfunction of many districts, I want to clearly be on the record that this should be a priority to every state legislator! That every stakeholder in Oregon education is treated fairly and professionally, with due respect, and proper oversight and due process, and that the guide shall be educational outcomes.

Outsourcing is a bad idea in the first place, but if you can't legislate it away, the least you can do is demand appropriate standards from districts in their contracting procedures and rationals. The out of state service providers only serve profit, and to put more distance between a substitute and the communities in which they serve by way of these providers, is irresponsible. All modern academic research, as well as common sense dictates, that it is close knit, connected communities which are positive for the student when applied appropriately.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,
Jon Deshler
VP OSTA
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