



Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I am a Public Affairs Consultant with the Oregon Education Association (OEA). We represent over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, spanning pre-K through community colleges. Our members include teachers, bus drivers, custodians, instructional assistants, nutrition specialists, community college faculty and staff, and many others who work tirelessly to support Oregon's students.

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 3357, which would establish a standardized process for reporting workplace injuries in schools.

Currently, the way we collect workplace injury data in schools is inconsistent, unreliable, and varies widely from district to district. Many districts still rely on paper-and-pen reporting processes, which can lead to lost or incomplete data, making it difficult to track trends and assess the scope of workplace injuries in the education sector. Without a uniform, statewide system, policymakers and administrators lack the necessary information to develop targeted solutions that improve safety for school staff. HB 3357 provides a critical first step in addressing this issue by ensuring school employees have a straightforward and standardized mechanism to report injuries.

This bill does not create a new app or impose additional burdens on staff. Instead, it follows an established model used by the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to track workplace injuries in healthcare settings. Schools should have the same ability to collect and analyze injury data to improve conditions for employees. Importantly, this legislation does not collect any identifying student information; it is strictly focused on staff safety.

While HB 3357 is not a comprehensive solution to workplace injuries in schools, it is a necessary step toward gaining a clearer understanding of the issue. By implementing a standardized reporting system, the Legislature can lay the groundwork for more informed policymaking and proactive efforts to create safer working environments for school staff.

For these reasons, OEA urges your support for HB 3357. Our educators and school employees deserve a workplace where their safety is prioritized, and this bill moves us in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.