



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

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Oregon Education Association (OEA) in strong support of House Bill 3504.

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, spanning pre-K through community colleges. OEA members include teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, nutrition specialists, community college faculty and staff, and many others who work to support Oregon's students.

HB 3504 provides critical resources to the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) to address the current backlog of investigations. By appropriating adding nine full-time staff positions, this bill ensures that investigations are conducted in a timely manner, strengthening accountability and student safety within our education system. Importantly, this funding solution does not place additional financial burdens on educators by raising licensing fees.

A well-functioning TSPC is essential for maintaining the integrity of our profession and ensuring that students are learning in safe and supportive environments. The current backlog in investigations places strain on both educators and the communities they serve. By investing in the necessary staffing and resources, HB 3504 will improve efficiency, allow TSPC to fulfill its critical responsibilities, and promote confidence in Oregon's educator licensure system.

For these reasons, we urge your support for HB 3504. Thank you for your time and consideration.