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OFFICER Haley Percell TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Director of Government Relations & Communications

DATE: March 3, 2025

RE: HB 3083

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 3083. While OSBA is neutral on the bill, we wanted to offer some considerations that may influence this discussion moving forward.

Under HB 3083, school districts would be required to consider wireless alert systems when reviewing their safety policies. In 2023, \$2.5 million was allocated during the 23-25 biennium to help cover the costs of the types of alarms described in HB 3083 -1. We believe that if the intent is to increase the number of districts utilizing wireless alarm systems, ongoing funding to support the cost to districts would help move toward that goal.

We appreciate that the bill honors the local decision-making authority of elected school boards by only requiring that districts consider the use of wireless panic alarms. We would like to suggest that it might be helpful for districts if ODE provided a list of potential vendors and/or rough cost estimates, rather than having 197 districts seek out vendors and gather cost information. This would help ensure districts have the information needed to effectively engage in the considerations required under the bill.

The safety of students should be a priority for us all. OSBA appreciates the sponsors of HB 3083 for elevating this conversation in a manner that works for districts and recognizing the importance of local context as districts determine how best to meet the safety needs of their communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer our thoughts on HB 3083.