



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 3357

March 3, 2025

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

My name is Lesley Muñoz, and I proudly represent House District 22. Before joining the legislature, I spent 15 years as a labor representative, advocating for the rights and safety of workers. In that time, I have witnessed firsthand the alarming increase in workplace injuries within the education sector. Educators and school staff — those who dedicate their lives to supporting students — are experiencing more injuries than ever, yet we lack a clear, standardized way to track them.

HB 3357 is a simple and necessary step toward addressing this issue. This bill would create an easy-to-use form for school employees to report injuries—not add more paperwork, but to ensure that lawmakers and decision-makers have the data needed to see where these injuries are happening. Without this information, we are operating in the dark, unable to fully understand the scope of the problem or implement effective solutions.

For years, the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) has been at the forefront of the “Work Shouldn’t Hurt” campaign, advocating for safer workplaces for educational staff. HB 3357 is a continuation of that work — another step our legislative body can take to ensure educational workers are supported. It is not a magic bullet, and it does not fully dig into the root of the problem, but it would provide a much clearer picture of where injuries occur and help guide future solutions.

This is not a new app or an added burden – it follows the same model the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is using with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to track workplace injuries in healthcare settings. Schools should have the same ability to identify trends and address hazards before they worsen. This bill does not collect any student-identifying information; it is simply about protecting the staff who make our schools run.

Today, you will be hearing from a select few workers who have experienced these challenges firsthand. However, they are representative of the experiences many educators are facing every day in their workplace. Their stories will illustrate why HB 3357 is necessary and how a basic reporting system could make a difference.

We cannot fix what we do not measure. HB 3357 is a crucial first step in addressing workplace safety in education, ensuring that we have the necessary data to take meaningful action in the future. I urge the committee to support HB 3357 and help make our schools safer for the staff who support Oregon’s students every day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.