COURTNEY NERON STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 26



March 3, 2025

Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee,

I write in strong support of HB 3357, with the goal of strengthening workplace safety reporting for Oregon's school employees.

This bill directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in consultation with the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), to establish a standardized system for reporting workplace safety incidents in schools. By ensuring injuries are properly documented, including their nature, location, and contributing factors. **HB 3357 will enhance transparency, improve data-driven decision-making, and ultimately help prevent future incidents.**

School employees face increasing safety risks, from injuries sustained in classrooms to incidents requiring de-escalation measures. Yet, reporting inconsistencies make it difficult to fully assess the scope of these challenges. You heard stories during our hearing from hard-working, dedicated education staff members who have been injured in the workplace and their difficulties in both reporting incidents and ensuring that robust, accurate data collection is taking place. **Without comprehensive data**, **policymakers and school administrators lack the tools to implement effective safety measures**. This bill helps us close any gaps that may exist in reporting when injuries occur.

The goals of HB 3357 are to:

- Establish a clear, centralized reporting method for school workplace safety incidents.
- Ensure ease of use and public accessibility while minimizing redundant reporting.
- Prevent biases in incident reporting to protect all students and staff.
- Align school district policies with existing workplace safety regulations

The safety of our educators and school employees directly impacts the quality of education our students receive. A workforce that feels protected and supported is better able to foster positive learning environments. By passing HB 3357, Oregon can take steps to ensuring that incidents are not just documented but used to drive meaningful investments and improvements.

I urge your support for HB 3357 and our hardworking educators.

Sincerely,

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