

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of [HB 3504](#)

March 3, 2025

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

I write to express my strong support of HB 3504, a bill that will add 9 new investigators to our Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC).

The Professional Practices Unit within Oregon's Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) oversees **investigations into educator misconduct, ensuring adherence to ethical and professional standards**. Led by a Director and supported by legal liaisons, investigators, and assistants, the unit investigates complaints that may warrant license denial, suspension, or revocation, prioritizing cases that directly impact student safety, such as sexual misconduct, boundary violations, and assault. Investigators gather evidence through subpoenas, witness interviews, and document reviews. After compiling an unbiased report, the Commission reviews cases in executive session, determining whether to dismiss complaints, impose sanctions, or proceed to hearings. The Commission ultimately decides on disciplinary actions, **ensuring due process while upholding the integrity of Oregon's education system**.

The safety of Oregon's students depends on a swift and effective investigative process, yet the heavy caseloads of the Professional Practices Unit investigators result in prolonged investigations, sometimes stretching beyond two years. This delay has real consequences—children who have been harmed endure uncertainty and prolonged trauma, while educators may wait years to hear what they are being investigated for, hear the resulting decision, or even clear their names. These delays compromise school safety and undermine trust in the system. **To truly protect our children, we must ensure that allegations of misconduct are investigated thoroughly and efficiently**, holding offenders accountable while swiftly exonerating those falsely accused. Investing in additional investigators is not just about reducing wait times—it is about ensuring every child learns in a safe and secure environment.

Based on my inquiry into how to support the Commission in reducing delays, it became clear that TSPC's **current backlog and the ongoing influx of new cases require additional resources**. To address this, nine new investigators are needed to swiftly clear the backlog and ensure timely case processing moving forward. The funding required for this essential support is just over \$2 million. **This one-time appropriation will provide the Commission with the necessary staff to ensure that misconduct is addressed promptly and that every child can learn in a secure environment**.

I urge the Committee's support of HB 3504.

Sincerely,

Representative Courtney Neron | House District 26: King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Wilsonville
900 Court St, H-281, Salem OR 97301 | Rep.CourtneyNeron@oregonlegislature.gov | 503-986-1426