

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

For the record, my name is Jeremias Martinez and I am a proud member of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Nyssa Chapter 28 and am also the state Zone VII Director. I am an instructional assistant helping in 4th-5th grade classrooms. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3357, which would improve safety reporting protocols for school employees by establishing a universal safety reporting system in schools.

I work as a K-5 Special Education (SPED) Assistant for the Nyssa School District and have been in this role for the past three years. Throughout this time, I have been bit, scratched, and kicked, and have also suffered two concussions all in working with one particular student. It's been devastating for me to see this student go without any additional services or assistance for behavior regulation and de-escalation because even as I've advocated for him to receive further resources and care, I've been told time and time again that the school district is unable to assist with his behaviors due to the lack of recorded data on his behaviors. HB 3357 would not only help with ensuring students are safe at school, it would make a huge impact on staff safety as well.

HB 3357 will allow for easy, streamlined data collection to be used to improve the safety of all students, but particularly those who I work with who have IEPs and 504's and who may exhibit aggressive or violent behaviors not because they wish to do harm to staff like myself, but because they are dysregulated, over- or understimulated, experiencing mental health challenges, etc. Being able to easily collect data on the safety incidents that take place in schools by establishing a universal safety reporting system all while avoiding the collection of any student-identifying information will make for schools that staff feel comfortable and safe coming to.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today. I urge an aye vote on HB 3357.

Sincerely,

Jeremias Martinez  
OSEA Zone VII Director  
Nyssa Chapter 28 SPED Assistant