

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

For the record, my name is Jillian Bryant. I am an OSEA member and Family Advocate for Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) Head Start Chapter 603. I am also the Treasurer for my chapter.

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of HB 3357, a bill that would allow school districts to obtain comprehensive data on the safety incidents that occur in classrooms and result in staff injury.

We NEED to have an easy, consistent reporting system that 1. Allows school employees to bypass encouragement by admin to forgo reporting the safety incidents they experience and 2. Allows for running data collection and documentation so that as staff, we can in turn obtain the information about classroom safety trends needed to provide students with the support they deserve in classroom settings.

There was a time when barriers to easy safety reporting directly affected me. I was bitten extremely hard by a student and in response to this event, I was made to scramble to find the correct report to fill out in the main office and then had to guess how to appropriately fill it out because an administrator wasn't present and I had no formal training on how to report injuries like the one I experienced correctly. I then had to redo my form TWICE because my direct report and her supervisor wouldn't approve it. In the end, nothing was done to address this incident, and I still don't know if the form I filled out ended up anywhere that it could be referred back to later when evaluating student behavior and/or classroom safety trends. The student that hurt me continued to bite other staff, who didn't report the events because of both lack of knowledge of how to do it and for fear of either getting in trouble themselves or getting the student in trouble.

My hope in passing HB 3357 is to get data that will properly inform school districts of things like what adequate classroom staffing actually looks like, and the need for staff to obtain further training for things like deescalation and working with dysregulated students.

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

Sincerely,
Jillian Bryant
Family Advocate, MHCC Head Start OSEA Chapter 603