

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

For the record, my name is Dena Green, from OSEA's Beaverton Chapter 48. I've been a para educator in a SPED classroom for about 20 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 3357.

I have been injured in my job more times than I'd have time to talk about in the 2 minutes allotted for testimony, but most recently, I incurred a serious injury when a student struck me on the chin with his head and I sustained a concussion. I filled out an incident report at my school right away, but didn't realize the seriousness of my injury until days later when I went to urgent care and was told that I couldn't go back to work until I was released by the workers comp doctor due to the fact that I'd sustained a concussion. When I communicated this with my HR department, I was told that they hadn't expected me to go to the doctor per my original report or for my circumstances to change. I tried to explain that there wasn't any spot on the incident form to indicate that I couldn't gauge the severity of my injury after it initially happened and that the report would need to be revised to fully capture the extent of my injury. The incident form failed to capture all of the facts and context of the event. The incident itself forced me to take work off for a week, drained my bank of sick time, and directly cost me money since workers comp doesn't pay out for the first 3 days of missed work.

A uniform reporting system that is simple and keeps data at the ready for later review is necessary in order to be able to point to specific issues needing remedy before state decision makers and to make them aware of what really goes on in our classrooms.

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

Sincerely,  
Dena Green  
OSEA Beaverton Chapter 48, Para Educator