



Date: March 5, 2025

To: House Education Committee

From: Kim Kellison, Silver Falls School District Interim Superintendent

Subject: Testimony in Support of [House Bill 3037](#)

Good Afternoon, Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee

For the record, my name is Kim Kellison. I'm the superintendent in Silver Falls School District. I've served as the Superintendent in the district for 1 year, but also served as a small school district superintendent for two additional years in Douglas County. My testimony today is based on my experience in both districts.

Our district serves 3,650 students in Marion and Clackamas County. Our district serves a large geographic area, mostly in Marion County, spanning 270 square miles and has a unique configuration with eight rural buildings that serve k-8 students.

I'm supportive of House Bill 3037 because it would help streamline grants, reports, and funding for small and rural schools.

In my district, I wear many different hats, including director of teaching and learning, director of communications and superintendent.

Districts across the state are challenged daily with compliance requirements and administrative burdens that are detrimental to our ability to serve our community and impact student achievement. Here are just a few examples of how we are impacted.

- *Superintendents, especially those in small districts without a large cabinet, spend countless hours on reporting requirements that are often redundant in nature, requiring us to provide demographic and other district information time and again due to the lack of coordinated data systems at ODE.*
- *Financial officers across the region manage an extremely complicated system - with over 130 grants for specialized funding. This creates a system that is difficult to explain to community members, requires excessive reporting, and creates difficult*



SILVER FALLS
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budgeting processes that include numerous sources of funding. At times, the funds we receive are not sufficient to run programs and we have to supplement out of the general fund to enable us to utilize grant funds at all. Smaller districts in Douglas County discussed sharing instructional coaches because the early literacy grant was not sufficient to fund these positions entirely.

- *Administrators in my district regularly work 12 hours per day which is leading to workplace burnout due to reporting systems and requirements that are not streamlined or efficient. And each time ODE reaches out to request duplicative information and data that we have already reported to the Department, it draws our limited time and attention away from supporting our students and staff.*

I believe that the changes proposed in this bill will help ensure that small schools have a meaningful amount of grant funding to implement high-quality programs for our students; and reduce the burden of paperwork placed on small schools so that we can focus on our students and staff.

Thank you again for your time and the opportunity to testify today. I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 3037.