

Testimony for SB 980

My name is Sarah Reames, and I am the Vice President of OSEA Chapter 15 in Medford, Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 980.

Our district in Medford consists of over 600 classified employees who fill 61 generalized and overlapping job descriptions. Unfortunately, this often leads to staff performing duties outside their assigned scope—tasks they aren't specifically trained for and are not compensated for. This situation creates unnecessary strain on our employees, disrupts the efficiency of our schools, and ultimately impacts the quality of education our students receive.

Passing SB 980 is crucial for addressing these challenges. The bill will allow Oregon school districts to more accurately assess the roles classified staff play in the success of our students. It will ensure that training opportunities are tailored to each position, so that employees have the tools and knowledge they need to do their jobs effectively. More importantly, it will foster a system that promotes workforce development and equitable compensation for the valuable work classified staff perform.

This bill is a step toward a more sustainable and supportive educational environment for both our staff and students. It's not just about fairness for our workers—it's about investing in the future of education in Oregon. When classified employees are properly trained and compensated for the work they do, the entire educational system benefits, from the classroom to the school district as a whole.

I urge you to pass SB 980 and help ensure that classified employees receive the recognition, support, and compensation they deserve. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Reames

Vice President of OSEA Chapter 15