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Haley Percell

TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Director of Government Relations and Communications

DATE: March 28, 2025

RE: HB 3149 -2

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

OSBA represents all 197 school districts in Oregon, 19 ESDs and community colleges. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB 3149 with the -2 amendments. This bill directly benefits a select subset of our membership, the school districts impacted by the traumatic 2020 wildfires.

Those school districts and local communities were devastated by the fires and the impacts continue. Rebuilding efforts have taken longer than expected. Districts are still sorting out exactly what the long-term impact on their enrollment might be. But we do know that students still in the district have significant need, increased by having lived through the trauma of the fires.

Providing another year of ongoing funding will help these districts maintain services for students and reduces the risk of cutting programs and then needing to re-add them later should enrollment tick back up. Should there be long-term enrollment loss that warrants cuts, having another year of transition funding will allow these districts to make those adjustments in the most thoughtful manner possible.

We appreciate the commitment of this body to wrap-around these districts in their time of need, and we encourage your ongoing support of them through passage of HB 3149 with the -2 amendments. Thank you.