



Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Education Association (OEA). OEA represents more than 41,000 educators and education support professionals across the state—from pre-K to community college. Our members include teachers, bus drivers, custodians, instructional assistants, nutrition specialists, community college faculty and staff, and many others who work every day to support Oregon's students and their families.

OEA firmly opposes SB 999 and the -2 amendment.

This bill seeks to exempt certain employer-provided housing from being classified as a "place of employment," thereby removing these dwellings from the jurisdiction of the Oregon Safe Employment Act (OSEA). Such an exemption would strip away critical safety and health protections for farmworkers and their families—many of whom are the students we serve daily.

The Department of Justice has affirmed that the Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS) and Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (Oregon OSHA) possess the authority to regulate all employer-provided housing, including single, isolated dwellings occupied by family members or small groups of unrelated individuals. By redefining these dwellings, SB 999 undermines this established authority and diminishes the protections afforded to these vulnerable populations.

Safe and healthy housing is not merely a regulatory concern; it is a fundamental human right. Our students' well-being, academic success, and overall development are directly influenced by their living conditions. Allowing exemptions that could lead to substandard housing conditions is an affront to the dignity and rights of these individuals and poses significant risks to their health and safety.

We urge you to reject SB 999 and any amendments that compromise the essential protections for farmworkers and their families. Upholding these standards is imperative to ensure the welfare of our students and the broader community.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.