



Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazan and Pham, 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 represents more than 41,000 educators and education support professionals across Oregon's public schools and community colleges. Our members include teachers, education assistants, bus drivers, custodians, nutrition service workers, and other vital staff who support students every day.

OEA strongly supports HB 3883 as a meaningful step toward improving transparency and public participation in government. We are particularly encouraged by the provision that places public comment at the beginning of meetings. This change will reduce barriers for working Oregonians—especially parents, educators, and community members—who often cannot remain for hours in order to share their perspectives.

We also recognize the value of flexibility for smaller, volunteer-led advisory groups. To that end, OEA would support amendments that exempt volunteer committees, provided those committees report back to a larger public body where public comment is permitted. This approach preserves the bill's core commitment to access while accommodating the unique role of informal advisory bodies.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your continued efforts to strengthen public access and trust in Oregon's democratic processes.