



April 18, 2025

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Muñoz, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Oregon's largest school district, Portland Public Schools, I write to share our enthusiastic support for SB 849.

The current weight of mandatory PERS liabilities has led school districts, like PPS, to make difficult decisions that are impacting our members and communities. Budgetary constraints are felt everywhere - from classrooms receiving less resources, to educators no longer having stable employment.

Next year, Portland Public Schools' PERS costs are going up by \$30 Million (~\$60 for the biennium). This amount is equivalent to 197 licensed positions or just over 9 school days each year. Currently, PPS has a \$40 Million budget deficit, which will impact up to 200 positions and other services for students in the next school year.

If this bill passes, the PERS Board can apply School District Liability Fund (SDULF) dollars with more flexibility and in ways that address the needs of districts, workers, and students.

SB 849 will help all parties provide stability to school budgets and retain educators and critical programs that serve our students. We urge you to support this critical bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Morrison
Chief Financial Officer
Portland Public Schools