

To: Senate Committee on Education

Re: Support for HB 2596 – Interstate Compact for School Psychologists

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a licensed school psychologist working in Redmond, Oregon, **I write to express my strong support for HB 2596**, the bill to adopt the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP). I currently serve elementary-age students, their families, and educational teams in a small, rural district—and I can personally attest to the urgent need to improve the pipeline for qualified professionals in our field.

For several years now, our district has struggled to recruit and retain enough school psychologists to meet the needs of our students. We have experienced multiple school years without having our team fully staffed. Despite consistent recruitment efforts, we receive very few applicants. A significant part of the challenge is the limited number of graduate training programs in Oregon that lead to school psychologist licensure—currently only two statewide, and none based in Central Oregon. This leaves our region especially vulnerable to workforce shortages. By simplifying the licensure process for qualified professionals from other states, the ICSP would allow us to more effectively recruit skilled school psychologists who are ready to serve in Oregon schools.

The role of the school psychologist has never been more critical. In addition to conducting comprehensive evaluations and supporting special education eligibility decisions, we are integral to the promotion of student well-being, behavioral support, trauma-informed care, and mental health services. These responsibilities are especially vital in rural communities, where access to other mental health providers is often limited or nonexistent. With student mental health needs on the rise, the consequences of persistent staffing shortages in our profession ripple across classrooms, families, and entire school systems.

The ICSP offers a practical, high-impact solution. It preserves the state's regulatory authority while simplifying the licensure process for qualified practitioners relocating across state lines. It would allow us to compete more effectively for top talent and fill positions more quickly, ultimately improving continuity of care and expanding access to comprehensive school psychological services.

I respectfully urge your support of HB 2596 and ask you to help Oregon take a meaningful step toward addressing the school psychologist shortage and meeting the needs of our students.

Sincerely,

Joel D. Moore, Ed.S.

Licensed School Psychologist

Redmond, Oregon