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Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee:

As the Coordinator of the School Psychology Team at Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRES D), I am writing to express **strong support for House Bill 2596**, which would enact the **School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact** in Oregon.

As a supervisor of a regional team that serves students across diverse communities, I have witnessed firsthand the significant barriers to hiring and retaining qualified school psychologists. The **national shortage** of school psychologists, compounded by Oregon's unique licensure requirements, makes it incredibly difficult to maintain adequate staffing levels. This has real consequences for our students—particularly those who require timely and comprehensive evaluations and support for their academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs.

**HB 2596 provides a practical, thoughtful, and much-needed solution.** By joining the interstate licensure compact, Oregon would create a streamlined pathway for highly qualified professionals licensed in other member states to practice here—**without compromising the quality or safety of services**. This legislation would:

- **Expand the candidate pool** for hard-to-fill school psychologist vacancies, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- **Increase service continuity** for students who relocate across state lines.
- **Support military families** and spouses of school psychologists seeking employment after a transfer.
- **Promote equity and access** to mental health and educational support services for all Oregon students.

Our ability to provide high-quality psychological services is only as strong as the professionals we are able to recruit and retain. HB 2596 offers a clear path forward, allowing Oregon to benefit from the shared expertise, flexibility, and workforce mobility that this compact enables.

I urge you to support House Bill 2596 and help Oregon take a bold step toward addressing

the school psychology shortage while ensuring students receive the critical services they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Meier-Nowell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tina Meier-Nowell, M.A.  
Coordinator, NWRES D ASD and School Psychology Teams