



## Oregon School Employees Association

www.osea.org

State Office: 4735 Liberty Road S, Salem, OR 97302-5036

P: 800-252-6732, 503-588-0121 F: 503-588-8307

May 6, 2025

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Sarah Wofford. I am an Accounting Specialist at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass and the current State President of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). OSEA represents over 25,000 classified educators across the state at nearly every level of Oregon's public education system, including Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> schools, Head Starts, Community Colleges, ESDs and Parks and Rec. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 3789.

Our members' rights to organize and secure better working conditions are under attack. In my three years as the State President, we have seen a significant increase in groups pretending to be OSEA in an attempt to mislead workers into dropping their membership. OSEA created a form online for our members to submit these fraudulent actions, and in the past 10 months we have had 80 reported. These voluntary reports do not represent the total scope of the problem, but they do help illustrate just how widespread this issue is and how many members are taking notice.

The most common way groups target our members is by using mailers. These mailers are often misleading using strikingly similar colors and branding to official OSEA materials.

Many promise that by dropping their membership, the recipient will get a \$700 refund. Some even include fake checks that lead people to believe that by filling out the form, their union will send them that \$700 personally. Others ask the recipient to check one of several boxes about their membership status and return it; once signed the postcard is sent to a c/o P.O. Box with pre-paid postage and then the member is dropped, many times without their knowledge. By dropping their union membership, other benefits our members rely on are also in danger, such as life insurance and occupational liability insurance which protect our members on the job and at home.

HB 3789 is especially important to protect the members of OSEA, because it would afford the union an opportunity to speak to the members and let them know what dropping their membership will mean to them.

I know firsthand the value unions bring to working families in Oregon. My union has given me opportunities to learn and grow, not only in my profession – but as a leader in my community, our great state and even nationally. The training and resources that unions provide helps employees



grow beyond their previous earning potential, and helps workers fight for better working conditions. The actions taken by these groups are not just about getting members to drop their union membership but silence their voices. It keeps them from speaking up when an unsafe situation occurs in the workplace, it keeps them from leadership opportunities, it keeps them off their bargaining teams when contract negotiations occur.

HB 3789 is critical to protect our workers and uphold our values, and we respectfully urge a yes vote. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Wofford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" and the last name "Wofford" clearly legible.

Sarah Wofford  
OSEA State President

