

Submitter: Darnell Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2900

My name is Darnell Williams, and I am a licensed K–12 special education teacher currently working in a resource classroom. I've taught for seven years, and previously served in a role focused on educator recruitment and retention—work that highlighted the barriers many teachers face in building long-term careers in Oregon schools.

I'm also a parent of a school-aged child in Oregon's public education system, so I speak from both professional and personal experience.

I'm writing in support of HB 2900A because it takes an important step toward improving teacher retention and stability—something our schools and students need now more than ever.

We know that educators move between districts for a variety of reasons—personal needs, career growth, and in some cases, to seek healthier and more supportive environments. This is particularly true for many BIPOC educators, who often face additional challenges navigating school systems that don't always reflect or support their lived experience. For those who've already completed a full probationary period, starting over every time they change districts only adds to the pressure and burnout.

HB 2900A recognizes that experience should count. It allows educators who have completed a three-year probationary period in one Oregon district to reach contract status after two years in a new district—if retained. It also gives districts flexibility to shorten that time further by agreement.

This bill is a smart, balanced policy that supports all educators, including those from underrepresented backgrounds, by creating a more predictable and fair path to professional stability.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge your support for HB 2900A.