

Submitter:

ANDREINA VELASCO

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2900

I am the Grow Your Own Pathway navigator for the David Douglas School District. I am also an adjunct professor for Portland State University's College of Education. In both of these roles I have supported dozens of aspiring educators on their journey to becoming licensed teachers. The majority of them are bilingual, identify as BIPOC, and have worked in a variety of different roles within our schools. Despite the challenges of working and going to school full-time, knowing how difficult it is to teach in today's classroom environment, these aspiring educators committed themselves to completing their pathway so that they could serve our brilliant and diverse students. Many of these new educators are first generation graduates in their families. Reducing the probationary period for them would honor the work that they have put into becoming licensed, their previous experience as educators, and the impact they have on our students. It would also bring tremendous stability and reduce work related stress, allowing them to focus on their students and improving their practice. I urge you to pass this bill in consideration for their hard work and also for the shortage of teachers that currently exists. Let's ensure that we can keep the teachers who have committed to this profession beyond their first two years of practice!