

Submitter: Joshua Varnell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2900

My name is Dr. Joshua Varnell. I am a public educator in Oregon, and I would like to provide my unconditional support for HB 2900. This bill is necessary to end an unfair probationary system in our public education system. Not only does it treat educators unfairly, but no other profession requiring an advanced degree, ongoing professional development, and ongoing evaluations requires such an onerous process. In turn, we know that the probationary period unfairly impacts educators of color. A three-year probationary period for educators in the state of Oregon deprives new educators of an open environment for learning. Oregon prides itself on providing safe spaces for intellectual risks for our students, but a probationary period for teachers deprives educators of that same space. We need a system to support educators, not one that creates undue stress and doesn't provide opportunities for growth and development to support all the amazing students across Oregon. I ask Oregon legislators in both the House & Senate to fully support this resolution.