

Submitter: Ira Erbs
On Behalf Of: HB 2900
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2900

My name is Ira Erbs, and I'm a retired educator, writing in strong support of HB 2900A.

Because of budget cuts, I was forced to change school districts four times throughout my career. Each time, despite having 10 to 20 years of prior experience, I was placed on probation and had my salary reduced. In every case, I was also asked to mentor new teachers, even while being treated as if I were brand new myself.

Later in my career, I earned certification in Career and Technical Education. While I was finally placed at the top of the salary scale, I was still put on probation yet again. At one point, the training administrator even came to me for ideas on what to cover in class.

HB 2900A is long overdue. It's time we stop punishing experienced educators for district transitions and start treating them with the respect and stability they've earned. This bill supports fairness, teacher retention, and professional dignity.

I urge you to pass HB 2900A. This legislation strikes a balance between accountability, fairness, and high-quality teacher retention.

Sincerely,

Ira Erbs
Milwaukie
Retired Educator