



TO: House Education Committee
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Director of Government Relations and Communications
DATE: February 10, 2026
RE: HB 4050

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4050.

We think there could be many good lessons learned from other states' education funding processes. For instance, some states fund teacher pensions directly, rather than having local districts cover that expense out of their general operating grants.

We also believe there is great value in continuing the conversation about how other states fund their teacher salaries, including through options like statewide bargaining. We see this as an extension of earlier work by the Task Force on Statewide Educator Salary Schedules.

Our current system in Oregon is not well-suited to ensuring that funding matches costs. Each time the Legislature passes a new requirement without providing funding, those costs get absorbed into a districts' budget—meaning, the money comes from somewhere else in the budget. Those added expenses rarely get baked into the K-12 budgeting process. Over time, this obscures the true cost of providing an education in Oregon.

While there is a general affinity in our state for doing things "the Oregon way," we believe that learning what's working in other states would be a smart use of time and resources as think about the future of Oregon's education system. We encourage your aye vote.

Thank you.