



Date: February 11, 2026

To: House Labor and Workforce Development

From: Enrique Farrera, Oregon Education Association President

Subject: HB 4011 -1 amendment

Class Size Matters to Students and Educators

My name is Enrique Farrera, here on behalf of the Oregon Education Association. I am here in support of HB 4011 with the -1 amendment. Thank you Chair Grayber and members of the committee for the opportunity to join you today.

The Oregon Education Association represents over 42,000 educators across the state of Oregon. The membership of our union spans every aspect of education. We represent educators in from pre-kindergarten, K-12 and Community colleges. These members have diverse roles from licensed teachers and specialists, classified/education support professionals (ESPs), community college faculty, bus drivers, school nurses, to counselors and more. In short, our members are the ones who ensure students arrive to school safely, are fed, supported in crisis, teach in front and back of classrooms, and work in difficult conditions to support students and our communities every day.

OEA board members voted to prioritize this legislation for the 2026 session because class size, case load, and serious safety issues continue to be central topics for educators as they discuss their priorities and the barriers they see to supporting students. The Oregon Education Association mission is to unite the public education profession and advocate for those professionals to ensure quality public education for students in Oregon. Restoring the bargaining rights of educators

The problem that HB 4011 seeks to address is straight forward. Educators are regularly denied the opportunity to simply discuss possible solutions to address issues that are at the core of their working conditions. Today you'll hear from first hand experience where creative local solutions have been found related to class size and case load, and where restoring bargaining rights on these key topics would have helped those solutions be found earlier.



Restoring the bargaining rights in 2021 for class size and case load for Title 1 schools was a good first step. Since then more productive conversations have occurred in bargaining but many districts have declined to even discuss these core issues when educators have brought them forward. Today you'll hear of examples of solutions that have been found that districts can afford, and that have made concrete and tangible improvements in the lives of students and educators. Passing this legislation will ensure more of that can happen across the state.

The largest class size study, the Tennessee's Student Teacher Achievement Ratio (or STAR study) was a four-year longitudinal study that found smaller class sizes had a positive effect on student learning. The safety of students and educators is a fundamental and foundational need for learning. This legislation is aimed at supporting students, and restoring and respecting the voices of educators as they propose solutions to improve their working conditions that are student learning conditions.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge your support of HB 4011 with the -1 amendment.