

April 3, 2017

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education,

On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, I respectfully request your support for HB 3318. AFT-Oregon represents approximately 15,000 Oregon workers in community college and universities in faculty, graduate employee, and classified positions, K-12 classified positions, and child care workers.

Our K-12 classified members work hard every day in school districts throughout Oregon, including Portland, Scappoose, Hillsboro, and John Day. They care deeply about their students, the school, and their community. Unfortunately, many AFT-Oregon members working in special education as instructional assistants and bus drivers currently do not have the information or training needed to safely provide a high quality education for their students. This can sometimes put students and staff at risk of injury or bodily harm.

If passed, HB 3318 would require districts to use existing resources to provide the following supports for educators working with students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan. HB 3318 would require school districts to conduct a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and behavioral intervention plan (BIP) for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan who need additional support to avoid injury of self, other students and SPED service providers.

Should an injury occur or continue to occur, HB 3318 would require the completion or revision of an existing behavioral intervention plan (BIP) within 60 days following an incident. HB 3318 would also allow SPED service providers to be included in the development or modification of the FBA and BIP, to provide meaningful input and follow up, including the development of SPED service provider supports including training on the implementation of the BIP or protective gear.

AFT-Oregon also supports the -1 amendments to HB 3318. The -1 amendments include crucial input from several stakeholder groups.

The bottom line is that our members care deeply about these students and their education. But in order to provide the best education possible and minimize risk, more tools and resources are needed. HB 3318 is one tool that will help protect students and workers. We urge your support of HB 3318.

Sincerely,



Marcus Swift
Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
AFT-Oregon