FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The OEA-PAC will not contribute any money in the 2020 primary elections to any candidate that voted to cut educators’ retirement benefits last session. Lawmakers broke a critical promise to public workers in 2019 by voting yes on Senate Bill 1049.

“This bill cut hard-earned benefits for tens of thousands of educators,” says Rebecca Levison, ESL teacher from Portland and Chair of the OEA-PAC. “Lawmakers must answer for their votes. Educators work hard for our benefits and still make 22% less than folks in the private sector with similar education. We won’t spend our hard-earned dollars to re-elect people in the primary who don’t understand that.”

The OEA-PAC board strongly encourages local committees to withhold primary endorsement of candidates who voted for Senate Bill 1049. Local committees of educators from each legislative district make endorsement decisions for the OEA-PAC, while the statewide board makes the funding decisions.

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