



Matt Utterback
Superintendent

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Senate Committee on Education
900 Court St. NE - HR B
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Chair Wagner
The Honorable Vice-Chair Thomsen
The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education

This letter articulates North Clackamas School District's (NCSD) support for Senate Bill 584 (SB 584). Similar to school districts nationwide, NCSD has experienced a marked increase in students at all grades managing highly problematic social, emotional, and physical situations that are ultimately rooted in an erosion of physical and/or emotional safety. The impacts of these situations are multifaceted, and have an unquestionably negative impact on students' ability to learn. Students simply cannot thrive academically if they do not feel safe in schools, online, in their homes, and as part of the larger community.

Although NCSD and its social service partners have undertaken a number of steps to create programs designed to enhance the physical and emotional safety of its students, these efforts alone cannot address the ever-increasing mental health challenges students face. If passed, SB 584 would provide school districts with much-needed mental health and school safety resources designed to facilitate schools being safe learning environments for all. Achieving this goal is a key pillar of NCSD's 2019-2020 Legislative Agenda, and SB 584 reflects the reality of educating students in a society increasingly besieged by challenges to mental health and safety originating from a variety of sources, including online.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Utterback". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Utterback
Superintendent