

Date: 02-03-2020

To: House Education Committee, Chair Margaret Doherty and Members

Re: HB 4132 [Oregon Student Health Survey]

Chair Margaret Doherty and Committee Members;

As a parent I strongly OPPOSE HB 4132. The wellness of children is the concern of parents across the state. Parents, along with the doctors of their choice, should be the only authority on the overall health of said children. It is not the position of the government, or any government entity to monitor and survey the children of this state, nor to use this information to formulate laws. The brains of children are not fully developed until the age of 25. That means that their ideals, opinions, and psycho-emotional status changes on a day to day basis. It seems to me that this bill is just another power grab seeking to unseat parents as authorities over their children through the guise of a harmless survey being performed without full parental consent or knowledge of what the questions will be, and without children ever knowing the full extent of the possible usage of the survey against them, their families, and their worldview.

Furthermore, The Oregon Department of Education already has a survey program in place to track the wellness of students, as sited in the testimony of Brittany Ruiz. How much more power does the OHA really seek and for what purpose? Why do they insist on micro-managing the lives of Oregon parents and children? Since when is a complete stranger, let alone a government entity, capable of loving, sacrificing for, and understanding the overall health and wellness of a child before a parent?

I want to say to the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Education: Quit trying to take my job! As a parent, I am fully invested in my children, and I find it reprehensible that anyone or any entity think it their place to overstep my parental rights and obligations. I maintain an open and close relationship with my children; I will be the first to know if they need help, and I will be the first to seek it for them. Keep OHA out of schools- **Vote NO on HB 4132**

Thank you for your time,

Efrosinia Barsukoff

Clackamas County