



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Testimony supporting SB 1522

February 4, 2020

Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature

Chair Wager and Members of the committee:

As school district leaders, our most important responsibility is to ensure all our students receive an excellent education in schools that are safe and nurturing. That's why, last session, Portland Public Schools (PPS) championed SB 155 which eliminated statutory loopholes that previously made students across our state vulnerable to sexual misconduct and predatory behavior for far too long.

At PPS, implementation of these needed changes has been bolstered by the passage of SB 155, which developed new inter-agency collaboration united by the shared goal of ensuring our students are protected. Included in this legislation were new screening protocols for incidents of suspected misconduct and abuse by employees, volunteers, and contractors, as well as enhanced procedures for those who investigate sexual misconduct complaints. Often, in the creation and implementation of substantial statutory improvements, adjustments are needed to ensure a bill's intent is met without unnecessarily hindering other operations. In that vein, **we support SB 1522, which seeks to make adjustments necessary to ensure our educators can continue to execute their duties.**

SB 1522 does two things: first, it protects educators who discuss topics of a sexual nature in the limited cases where such discussion is a necessary part of state educational standards and is in line with existing policies and guidelines; and second, it ensures the people most intimately connected to a report of suspected misconduct have appropriate access to information about the investigation.

We urge your support of SB 1522.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guadalupe Guerrero", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent