

March 7,2021

Vote No on SB 683 – Giving Parents one more reason to remove their children from public schools.

Dear Committee Members,

Let us get right down to the facts: **Oregon Schools are Losing Federal Funding!**

More parents have removed their children from public schools than ever before in our history. Since 2001-2002 Private School attendance has grown from 7, 882 Students to 4,898,154 Students 2017-2018 according to the National Center for Education Statistics. According to an article in Greatschools.org, “ 5.5 million students attend private school- that is 12 percent of all elementary and secondary schools nationwide.” Also according to Greatschools.org, “why wouldn’t parents move their kids to private schools, graduation rates are just shy of a 100 percent.” Should My Kids go to Private School? A Pro/Con July 20, 2018, The White Coat Investor, “one of the big beefs I have with private schools is their tendency to siphon off resources that could go toward the public school system. No matter what you believe, it is pretty hard to argue that public schools are not providing a societal good that benefits all of us. A better-educated citizenry improves the economy, society, and government for all of us.

When the children of the educated, wealthy, and/or moral are removed from public schools in order to get a “better” education, that leaves those in the public schools worse off. Kids learn not only from their teachers but also from their peers. That goes for scholastic and non-scholastic subjects. Private schools may also siphon off the most talented and dedicated teachers, although I suppose I have no data to support that. Parents that are likely to put their kids in private schools are also those most likely to be very supportive of the school- i.e. volunteer time, donate extra money, ensure their kids are on top of their school work and behavior etc. Removing those kids and their parents from the public school system decreases the societal benefit of the public school system for all of us.”

This is just the tip of the iceberg!

Let us look at Home Schooling:

“Homeschooling has grown from being something only a small number of people participated in, to becoming a well-known choice for many families now.” The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the United States Department of Education, said that between 1999 and 2016 the number of homeschooling families nearly doubled—from 850,000 students to 1.7 million. And NCES says the number of homeschoolers is set to double again in the next 20 years. “ Homeschooling grew to engage around 2.5 million K-12 students and their just-over 1 million families during the past year,” in an article published [Big Growth in Homeschooling Indicated This “School Year”](#) August 21, 2020/in [NHERI News](#) /by [Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.](#)

“There is a diverse group of parent and kids- *many* are considering *not* returning to school even if it does open,” Parents taking their kids’ education into their own hands this fall, istock/Coscaron by Genevieve Shaw Brown.

A strong indication that this is true, Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) reports that membership has increased from 85,000 members to 95,000 members since September 2020.

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The Facts:” More Parents are Taking Their Children’s Education into Their Own Hands for a Variety of Reason: dislike of Common Core Curriculum, wanting more family time, wanting religion..” Argus Leader, Megan Raposa.

United States Department of Education, NCES, Institute of Education Science; School Choice in the United States 2019: Most Important Reason for Homeschooling Children:

- Concerned about school environment, safety, drugs.
- Dissatisfied with the academic instruction.
- Desire to provide religious instruction.
- Children with special needs.
- Desire to provide non-traditional approach.
- Child has physical or mental problems.

- **SB 683 GIVES THEM ONE MORE!**

“...through the experiences of spring 2020, millions more parents came to realize that they do not need (a) government-controlled teacher certification, (b) \$12,000 per child per year of their neighbors’ taxes, (c) professors of schools of education teaching, training, and indoctrination of school teachers, and (d) “expert”-created institutional school curriculum, and their children do not need to be with 25 peers of about the same age all day long, five days per week to be successful learners, happy, and sociable. (Murphy, 2014; Ray, 2017).”

Another national survey that gives new and detailed insights about Americans and their thoughts on homeschooling was released only a few days ago (EdChoice, 2020). These researchers found the following:

- **Parents not homeschooling before the pandemic are more likely to be favorable toward homeschooling now (43% more vs. 28% less).**
- **“More than half of black parents (53%) said they have a more favorable opinion of homeschooling as a result of the pandemic.”**
- **“Black and Hispanic parents appear more likely than white parents to want to homeschool their child(ren) next school year.”**

Look at the facts Oregon Legislators – **Vote No SB 683 2021,**

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