

# PORTLAND JEWISH ACADEMY

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March 10, 2021

Portland Jewish Academy, an independent, community Jewish Day School founded in 1960 and located in Portland, opposes SB 409. The proposed legislation will not enhance student safety, is unnecessary, and is unfair.

SB 409 will not enhance student safety. The safety and security of our students has always been our top priority, and private schools in Oregon already have strong prohibitions against sexual conduct as described in SB409. Our school employees already involve law enforcement as appropriate in any case that involves suspected criminal behavior.

SB 409 is unnecessary. In 2019, Oregon passed SB 155 which requires that all schools check both TSPC and ODE databases to determine whether applicants have pending investigations or have been found guilty of sexual misconduct. SB 155 also empowers the Oregon Department of Education to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct for individuals not licensed by TSPC. Such investigations mirror those done by TSPC for similar allegations and, therefore, already address the concerns outlined in SB 409.

SB 409 is unfair. The proposed legislation provides a cause of action only against non-TSPC licensed individuals. While many private school teachers have TSPC licenses, some do not, and such civil liability constitutes an unfair burden on this subset of private school educators.

Please oppose SB 409.

Sincerely,



B. Steven Albert  
Executive Director