



To: Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist  
Re: Senate Bill 746  
Date: March 25, 2021

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Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Hansell, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the general concepts of SB 746, and to also indicate the potential need for technical amendments.

Senate Bill 746 would impact school districts by adding protections for certain types of student hair and dress. If school districts do not observe these protections then they would be prohibited from joining the Oregon School Athletics Association (OSAA), the main statewide association for interscholastic activities and sports.

The goals of these protections are laudable and important. OSBA has supported similar legislation in the past, notably HB 3409 (2019) and HB 4107 (2020). OSBA is also generally supportive of the companion bill to this one, HB 2935, which has undergone revisions and is currently scheduled for a work session in the House Committee on Judiciary next week.

Part of our support for the bill includes the commitment to operationalize the bill and make it impactful to students. To that end we have been working with OSAA, and with the property and casualty insurance providers for school districts, to review the bill. Unfortunately that process is ongoing, and it may be that we ask for amendments in the future to address technical, implementation challenges. However, at this time, we have not found any portions of the bill that would need changes, and we are supportive of the goals of SB 746.

Hair and clothing matter. Forcing a student change hair or clothing represents a forced change to how that student presents themselves to their school community and the world at large. Schools should force that sort of change only when absolutely necessary. Thank you for your time and attention.