

Submitter: Katherin Kirkpatrick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1521

I second the opposing testimony of Ben Edtl and Free Oregon. The Oregon Department of Education is not worthy of increased power. It is directly responsible for the current state of public education in Oregon, which is bleeding enrollment and failing Oregon students--including my recently graduated child who was robbed of the last two years of her education, and all of the formative experiences that should have been part of it. ODE needs to be rebuilt from the ground up, with an eye to reining in the powers that allowed it to make the COVID crisis so much worse than it had to be. Oregon's independent school districts should remain directly accountable to the communities that they serve, and able to hire or fire whom they see fit.