

Submitter: Elizabeth Freeborn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: SB1521
Re: HB 1521 I submitted:

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill would remove necessary accountability that the superintendent has to the community for representing their local interests.

School Boards are elected positions that serve the local community. One of their primary functions is to oversee the Superintendent and they have the right to fire the Superintendent at will. The school board must reflect the will of the people or they cannot hold their positions.

Everybody is affected by what is taught at school. They are training the next generation. Yes, stability is important. But accountability is more important to ensure the local community has a say in what happens at school.

Several school boards fired their Superintendents last year for not abiding by the will of the local community. This is how the system works. If you take away accountability to the community you take away the voice of the people and would negate current law.

ORS 332.072, gives local communities control over public education because they have a very vested interest in the outcome. What other recourse would there be if the community was unhappy about the education of their children?

332.072 Legal status of school districts. All school districts are bodies corporate, and the district school board is authorized to transact all business coming within the jurisdiction of the district and to sue and be sued. Pursuant to law, district school boards have control of the district schools and are responsible for educating children residing in the district. [1965 c.100 §139]

Please oppose this bill and protect the lawful oversight of elected school board members and the voice of the local community.

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