

Submitter: Santina Cartisser  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1552

My daughter was struggling in middle school, the pressure to 'fit in' escalated to unbearable levels when in the 8th grade 3 of her 'best friends' decided to get drunk at school. Think about this for one moment.... 13/14 year old girls getting drunk! When the girls were exposed they turned on my daughter with vicious accusations and physical violence....why? Because a rumor started that she was the 'snitch'. Even when the Principal plainly stated that the information did NOT come from my daughter, it did nothing to change their mindsets. The last few months of 8th grade were a horrible time. This is when I decided to pull my daughter from 'brick and mortar' school to on line. It saved her, physically and mentally. She is preparing to graduate in June. If this cap is put in place how many other students like my daughter will be stuck, unable to leave the violent/toxic environment? How many will simply 'quit' school because no education seems like the safer option?

Our story is the tip of the iceberg and most cognizant adults know this. The atmosphere of our schools is getting more and more toxic. Bullying, for all the hype about stamping it out, is on the rise. Body image, for the 'inclusivity' talked about is also hype. Our Oregon girls and boys desperately need an alternative, to reduce the open door so narrowly is harmful to Oregon, we must protect the next generation, they are the ones who will be leading our state one day.

Sincerely,  
Santina, concerned Oregon parent