

Submitter: Nicole De Graff
On Behalf Of: All kids AND parents of Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2656

Make no mistake, HB 2656 is not just an innocuous anti bullying or pro student voices survey. There is zero connection between parents and their child, it's a very invasive data collecting tool between the state and students. There is no full transparency when previously asking parents to consent. I had a difficult time getting full information from my kids school in Lane County. Tell the full truth. The bill sponsor was disingenuous when saying it was simply surveys on nutrition and sports participation. Calling it the Elevate Student Voice Act is ridiculous. I strongly oppose this bill.

Rep. Nancy Nathanson could have given a simple Yes or No when asked if parents will be able to opt out of this. She said, "It's Technical" -At no time was this answered. The bill doesn't say anything about permissions except for "mandate" and "school district shall." There is nothing implied that parents will be able to opt out. And the excuse given that different grades get different surveys is not entirely true. I have read all grades of both the SEED and SHS surveys and there is very little to distinguish between them. Aside from the invasive questions, this is touted as a useful benchmark but many kids don't answer honestly or seriously. Not to mention the 46 page length of the survey that I know many students would struggle to complete.

There are a lot of invasive and controversial questions that have no place being asked of kids at school.

For example, Sixth graders have been asked to fill out a state health survey and define their gender and sexuality - with 12 options that include 'demiboy,' 'demigirl' and 'agender. Why are we asking kids about sex?? Another question is, "Is there a space at school where you can meet with other students who identify with those like you-Gay Quee, Black and Hispanic affinity groups?" This is racist and happening across the state since Covid. An example is the North Eugene High School who does not allow white students to attend the meetings. 12 year olds asked about drug use and if they cut or burn themselves. It goes on.

I don't agree with how some schools have been giving prizes to kids who participate and others are left out when parents have opted out.

Please vote NO.