

Submitter: Shannon Garlitz  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB409

I am the parent of public school students in Oregon and am writing in support of SB 409. The fact this has to be brought to the attention of legislators says a lot about the political division that has burdened our children in classrooms as of late. The fact that OEA is opposing this bill is indicative of the division they've created among teachers and parents and of what little regard they have for parent involvement.

Last school year, after reviewing ODE's mandatory 10th grade Health/Sex Education curriculum per my request, we opted our son out of the lesson and supplemented with an accredited curriculum from another source which better aligned with the needs of our child. Unfortunately, the sex curriculum which our 14 year old son was not ready for was still taught to him in another class without our consent or knowledge. I had previously reviewed this particular class's syllabus which had no mention of sex in it. I learned of the lesson after the fact via weekly Google Classroom updates. School admin didn't know the lesson was taught and the teacher didn't think parents needed to know about it since the teacher thought the lesson was based on "science" - the same "science" derived from Alfred Kinsey's "research" which involved sexual abuse of infants and children.

Had the curriculum, lessons, and textbooks been posted online in advance, along with reviewing the syllabus, we could have prevented an unfortunate experience for my son. The information is readily available, why not make it easily accessible without multiple email requests, involving administration or, as OEA suggests, contacting ODE. Clearly OEA doesn't understand the bureaucratic backlog ODE presents to parents. It's not in ODE's authority, nor do we want it to be, for them to answer individual classroom questions from parents. SB 409 is an easy solution to be done at the local level.

Curriculum transparency is in the best interest of students. Please vote yes on SB 409.