



Salem Capital Pride

Written Testimony for Senate Bill 1552



Date: 2/08/24

Re: Salem Capital Pride Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1552

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Salem Capital Pride appreciates the opportunity to submit the following testimony for Senate Bill 1552.

Salem Capital Pride seeks to elevate the voices of the LGBTQIA+ and other minority communities in the central Willamette Valley and provide opportunities for the promotion of and advocacy for those communities and our allies.

Salem Capital Pride is in support of this bill because:

- 1) The bill seeks to collect data and input which can be used to make more informed decisions when addressing the issues in our Education System.
- 2) The Youth Advisory Council represents well the diversity of Oregon. We are especially supportive in the inclusion of “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary or another minority gender identity or sexual orientation...” in the council as indicated in section 1(4)(b). We would urge the committee to apply the same level of diversity that the bill does the Youth Advisory Council members as it does the adult mentors of the council to ensure that no member of the council is serving merely in a token capacity.
- 3) The bill allows former Youth Advisory Council members whose term has expired to stay on as mentors as indicated in section 4(2)(h). This is a great way to not only hold onto some form of institutional knowledge but also to empower the current council members.
- 4) The bill allows for the reimbursement of council members or the adults transporting them as indicated in section 4(3)(a)(A)(i). This will help to break down the barrier for those individuals coming from a lower socio-economic status and therefore help enrich the councils conversations and deliberations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Salem Capital Pride