

Submitter:

Donna Bleiler

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB867

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

My objection is with: Modifies standards for determining if a school district or public charter school is involved in religious activity.

This amends language that goes from specific prohibiting public schools from being [sponsors, financially supports or is actively involved with religious activity] . Replaces it with " is in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, section 5, of the Oregon Constitution."

The First Amendment US Constitution is misconstrued to be a separation of church from state, where it actual separates state from interfering with church, which makes this whole statue in violation of the US Constitution.

Article I, section 5, of the Oregon Constitution reads, "No money to be appropriated for religion. No money shall be drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any religeous [sic], or theological institution, nor shall any money be appropriated for the payment of any religeous [sic] services in either house of the Legislative Assembly." This appears to be a backhanded way of preventing School Choice student accounts from being used at religious sponsored schools. Public schools have always pushed difficult students into private schools, and those willing to take them have primarily been religious sponsored schools. Instead of separating them from funding, the legislature should be thanking them for removing them from public school statistics - otherwise public education would look worse.