

Submitter:

Tammy Freeman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2052

I am opposed to punitive fines that could have a disastrous affect on a family at or below the poverty level, and would not have no impact on wealthier households. A maximum fine of \$500 could be the difference in not paying rent, or not being able to purchase groceries. Considering that housing insecurity, food insecurity and a lack of support are major factors in absenteeism, I don't feel that adding another financial burden is going to improve this issue. If your actual goal is to prompt impoverished parents from withdrawing their children from the school system altogether, then maybe this will work.

Rep McIntyre has stated "[This bill] allows for those schools that are really struggling with a family or a student, even to be able to make that connection, to be able to connect and say, what do you need? How can we help you? And it creates this kind of community support around this family, 'cause that's the goal," If that is the case then why does there have to be a fine involved at all? Why not just provide the community support?

Here's an out-of-pocket suggestion-why not raise the tax on corporations or institute a wealth tax and use that money to improve our schools and communities, and address the root problems that are preventing our children from achieving success in school? Oregon ranks 31st in the country for education, do you think the answer is to fine families to force their kids to show up, or do you think maybe there are deeper issues at work?

Please do not move forward with this bill that will only result in making the poor more poor.