

Submitter: Sharrie Fyfe
On Behalf Of: HB2052
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2052

I adamantly opposed HB2052 - Relating to truancy; declaring an emergency.

Imposing punitive fines could have a disastrous effect on a family at or below the poverty level, and may also impact 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, adding another financial burden will not improve attendance.

(R) 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,"

How does imposing a fine up to a \$500 on a family that is already struggling to keep their student in school support success for that family or student?

What happens to that child whose family cannot afford to pay the fine?

Does the child's education improve by imposing a \$500 fine on the parent?

How does a parent react to a child when the parent receives a fine for \$500 because of the child's unexcused absence?

Will a \$500 fine improve the relationship between the parent and child?

There are systemic issues with the education system, first and foremost, that the system is not set up in the best interest of the students. Oregon education is predominately focused on funding and metrics. If revenue is the catalyst for this bill, look at other revenue sources, such as the profit from legalized marijuana (\$33,701,641 State tax total for Q1 2025: <https://www.oregon.gov/dor/programs/gov-research/Documents/Financial%20reporting%20distributions%20public.pdf>) or the allocation of lottery funds for K-12.

Instead of imposing fines, there should be a comprehensive study on the root cause of unexcused absences. This would allow mitigation efforts that support the student and family instead of imposing a financial burden that worsens the student's or

family's situation.

Our citizens are already struggling with financial burden, as is apparent with the increase in the houseless population.

Please do NOT move forward with this bill.