

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB867
NO on SB 867 A

This bill makes many changes to the powers and duties of ODE for investigations at a school or school district. It prescribes sanctions that the Department of Education may impose when an elementary or secondary school or program is found to be in noncompliance with a discrimination prohibition. The school must not cause a student to miss an educational or extracurricular activity, not have full access to educational services or be treated differently with respect to any aid, benefit or service otherwise available to students; or required to reimburse the student or the student's parent or legal guardian for any reasonable costs incurred in obtaining a comparable educational or extracurricular activity, receiving full access to comparable educational services or receiving comparable aid, benefits or services.

This bill eliminates certain information that must be disclosed to certain persons following the completion of an investigation involving suspected sexual conduct at a school, and requires law enforcement to make available to the department (ODE) certain information received during investigations of suspected child abuse.

I oppose SB 867 A. At first glance it appears to be a sensible bill about better safeguards around sexual abuse reporting. As you take a closer look, this bill is attempting to prevent School Choice student accounts from being used at religious sponsored schools. This bill appears to be a backhanded way of imposing government interference on charter schools or schools with any kind of religious affiliation and would therefore violate the First Amendment's establishment clause which would no doubt lead to expensive litigation.

Oregon is a national embarrassment when it comes to education. If the goal is to actually teach children, then you should not be placing barriers in front of families who want to escape this failed system. Our schools have lost its focus on education, and who can blame them when there are so many rules to distract them. They have become high paid babysitters. That why the state is in the bottom 4 in education; it just moved to the #49 spot. Our schools have lost focus. Teach kids to read and write, learn math, real history and civics.

Stop pushing this 'Progressive Woke Agenda' on our children. STOP. This state seems to believe that children belong to them and not the parents. There is an increasing need to overhaul the administration of the Department of Education. As the "WOKE" and "DEI" philosophies are finally being irreversibly rejected by the

Voters, ODE seems to continue to hoist indoctrination of youth in school education programs. The parents are capable of deciding where they send their kids to school and for those parents who cannot afford private schooling for their children; public schools should not be to indoctrinating children. I firmly believe that school choice should extend to religious schools as part of a comprehensive approach to education. Parents and students should not be discriminated against by prohibiting this vital option.

Vote NO on SB 867 A.