

Submitter: Calli Ross
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1572

My name is Calli Ross, and I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 1572.

While the stated goals of improving classroom environments and academic achievement are important, this bill as currently written raises significant concerns about equity, student rights, and access to inclusive education. SB 1572 would grant teachers broad authority to immediately remove a student from the classroom for behaviors that “interfere” with instruction, without clear standards or supports for students with disabilities or complex learning needs. These provisions risk disproportionately impacting students who already face barriers to success, including students with disabilities, language processing needs, trauma histories, or other neurodivergent learning profiles.

Further, requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in specified Essential Learning Skills before earning a diploma can result in high school students being denied graduation despite satisfying credit requirements and engaging fully in school. Standardized proficiency hurdles can deepen inequities in graduation outcomes and undermine Oregon’s efforts toward inclusive, whole-child educational success.

There is also concern that focusing narrowly on “science of reading” standards without adequate funding for teacher training, intervention resources, or culturally and linguistically responsive supports may burden schools without delivering meaningful results for diverse learners.

Rather than advancing punitive removal mechanisms and rigid proficiency gates, Oregon should invest in restorative practices, inclusive discipline frameworks, and expanded multi-tiered supports that address behavior and learning challenges collaboratively and equitably.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject SB 1572 in its current form and instead pursue policies that strengthen supports for all students without risking further marginalization or denial of opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Calli Ross

Advocates for Disability Supports