

Chairperson and members of the legislature,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Stacy Fagin, and I am a first grade teacher In Dallas, Oregon with 21 years of experience.

I am here to speak in strong support of this bill, which authorizes teachers to immediately remove a student who repeatedly interferes with instruction or the ability of others to learn.

This bill is not about punishment. It is about safety, learning, and reality.

In today's classrooms, repeated disruption has escalated far beyond talking out of turn or refusing to follow directions. Teachers are dealing with students who destroy classrooms, throw objects, hit, kick, punch, and spit. These behaviors don't just interrupt learning—they shut it down entirely.

As a result, staff injuries are no longer rare. Teachers and support staff experience concussions, broken bones, bruises, and other work-related injuries while trying to maintain order and protect students.

When a classroom becomes unsafe, no one learns. Not the students who want to be there. Not the students who are frightened. And not the teacher, who is forced to manage crisis after crisis instead of teaching.

Right now, too often, teachers are expected to endure these behaviors while instruction stops and the rest of the class pays the price. The message sent to students is clear: learning is optional, and accountability is negotiable. That is not fair to the majority of students who come to school ready to learn.

When repeated disruption occurs, the disruptive student is often not removed. Instead, teachers are required to conduct a room clear, evacuating the entire class rather than removing the single student causing the crisis. This disrupts learning for every child and places an unreasonable burden on teachers and students. When the student does leave the room they simply take a break and then are ultimately brought right back into the classroom, not because it is the best educational option, but because schools lack the funding and support needed to supervise, intervene, and help them succeed.

This bill gives teachers the authority to act immediately when repeated disruption crosses the line. It recognizes that teachers are professionals who can determine when instruction is no longer possible and when removal is necessary to protect the learning environment.

Removing a student from the classroom is not abandoning them. It creates space for appropriate intervention, support, and consequences—without sacrificing the education of every other child in the room. However, for this to work effectively, schools need adequate funding to provide trained staff, behavioral supports, and safe alternative settings for students who are removed.

Teachers should not have to choose between their own safety and their job. Students should not have to sit in fear or chaos to receive an education. And families should know that schools are places of structure, learning, and respect.

I urge you to support this bill—not just for teachers, but for the students whose voices are drowned out by repeated disruption, and whose education depends on safe, orderly, and well-supported classrooms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.