

## Opposition - SB 1572

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Yadira Juarez, and I am the Executive Director of the Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality, a community-based organization dedicated to advancing educational equity by supporting Latino/a/x families through advocacy, leadership development, and systems change that promote student success and well-being.

I am here today in **opposition** to **SB 1572**.

This bill is **not in the best interest** of students from **Pre-K through 12th grade**. Research and lived experience show that increased or harsh discipline policies disproportionately harm young children, students of color, students with disabilities, and students who have experienced trauma. Instead of supporting learning and development, exclusionary discipline practices remove students from the classroom and disrupt their academic, social, and emotional growth.

For our youngest children, especially in early childhood, discipline should focus on support, building relationships, and learning about feelings and social skills, not punishment. For older students, approaches that focus on relationships and respect for culture work much better for improving behavior, the school environment, and long-term success.

**SB 1572** could move our **education system backward** by focusing on punishment instead of prevention, healing, and

supporting students. Our students need policies that keep them engaged in school, strengthen relationships, and address the root causes of behavior, **not policies that push them out.**

I urge you to **oppose SB 1572** and instead invest in approaches that truly **support student success, equity, and well-being.**

Thank you for your time.