

Submitter: Andrea Pacheco
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1572

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

This bill needs more work before it is passed.

It does not provide the authority that teachers need because it is a legal solution to a relational problem, which would produce additional legal challenges. For example, under this rule, when a teacher decides to keep a student in class, if other students or their parents disagree with the teacher's decision, it will be challenged by a lawsuit, backed by a law like this.

The relational problem this bill attempts to solve can be addressed in a different way, which the majority of people agree on: tiered intervention supports, adequately trained and experienced behavioral support staff, and well-funded schools to appropriately staff these needs.

Let's keep working on the language, together with the funding, to produce a bill that will truly support a teacher's authority with the collective accountability of a fully supported school that can meet the challenges of what our youth need today.

Thank you for your time and public service.

Sincerely,
Andrea Pacheco
Executive Director
Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center
Serving Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties