

**Statement by the Security Industry Association to the Oregon Senate Committee on  
Education and Workforce Development**

**May 2, 2013**

Chairman Hass, Senator Knopp and members of the committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you with regard to H.B. 2386, which would prohibit school districts from requiring students to wear, carry or use any item with radio frequency identification device (RFID) technology if that device is used for purposes of locating or tracking a student or monitoring attendance.

My name is Jim Gingo, and I am the President of TransTech Systems located in Wilsonville, Oregon. TransTech Systems is a nationwide specialty distributor of identification technologies. I also serve on the board of directors of the Security Industry Association (SIA).

I am here to testify of behalf of SIA, which represents more than 400 companies that provide electronic and physical security solutions. SIA supports the development and use of radio frequency identification device (RFID) technology, which has been deployed throughout the United States to protect people and secure assets in government, business and education environments for more than 30 years.

The members of SIA oppose this bill and are concerned that several provisions contained within H.B. 2386 would diminish safety and cause economic harm to the State of Oregon.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make several points:

Passage of this legislation may potentially and inadvertently negatively impact companies located here in Oregon that are involved with the development and sales of RFID technologies for use in a wide array of industries and applications, as has also been pointed out by other organizations opposing the bill, including TechAmerica

SIA supports a holistic approach to school security that includes: funding for school security assessments, investments in technology, such as digital video cameras and RFID-based access control systems; and emergency preparedness training for education and law enforcement personnel. We advocate for federal funding for school safety such as the Secure Our Schools Program, from which Oregon received \$67,013.00 in 2011.

There has been no demonstrated harm from the deployment and use of RFID technology and it has been a proven solution for the protection of people and assets. RFID technology is fast and efficient. The U.S. military has used this technology to dramatically reduce deployment times. While our students are not the military, we have a responsibility to provide protection and security for them in an adequate manner.

If employed correctly, RFID technology is proven to effectively protect our students. We need to know who is inside our schools at all times. This is no different than asking a person to submit a state-issued ID, taking roll call at the start of class or scanning a barcode. The only difference is that RFID allows all of this to be done quickly and automatically. One of the biggest benefits of RFID is life safety; it can be used to safely evacuate a building in the event of an emergency or other event because it can determine who is still in the building to provide instant 'mustering' solutions to ensure that all souls are accounted for.

Finally, in light of the recent tragic events in Newtown, Connecticut, this legislation does not take into consideration the safety and security benefits that the use of such technology can provide. Oregon school administrators should have *every* option available to them to secure and protect students and teachers.

Simply put, enacting legislation that prohibits the use of RFID technology is shortsighted, based on activist misinformation, and wholly eliminates an efficient and cost-effective tool in providing sound public safety options.

The Security Industry Association opposes H.B. 2386 and we urge you to defeat or remove this bill from consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you and the committee. I look forward to answering your questions.

Please address any questions to:

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