



From the desk of
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Rep. John Huffman

April 17, 2013

To: Members of the Oregon House of Representatives

Stand for Children Supports HB 2192

Stand Oregon is devoted to educational equality in schools. Data show school discipline can be applied disproportionately to students, more greatly impacting low-income students, students with disabilities and others. These disparities lead to lower academic achievement and higher school dropout rates.

HB 2192 modernizes Oregon's school discipline statutes. The current statutes place too much emphasis on suspension and expulsion and include problematic "zero-tolerance" policies that tie the hands of school administrators.

HB 2192 supports positive trends in schools by encouraging the use of proven practices, such as Restorative Justice and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

HB 2192 recognizes that the best way to change problem behaviors is to **set clear expectations, keep students in class, teach them new skills and reward good behavior.**

HB 2192 makes important changes in our school discipline laws, including:

- ✓ **Removes mandatory expulsion (zero tolerance) language** that has been poorly understood and inconsistently applied to students. This change increases school administrator discretion.
- ✓ Clarifies existing requirements that schools **consider a student's age and past behavior prior to imposing suspension or expulsion.**
- ✓ Adds **additional guidance to school districts** for making decisions about discipline, including:
 - Using consequences designed to **promote positive behavior and correct misconduct,**
 - **Keeping students in class as much as possible** to maximize their opportunities to learn;
 - **Using research-based interventions** as much as is practicable.
- ✓ Specifies that school policies are designed to **impose discipline without bias.**
- ✓ Requires districts to ensure that policies **comply with state and federal laws concerning students with disabilities.**

Stand for Children believes every student, regardless of their background, should have access to a high quality education and graduate high school prepared for, and with access to, college. **HB 2192** helps Oregon schools move closer to this goal.