

From the
Desk of:

Deke Williams



Take a Stand Against Location Tracking of Oregon Students Vote Yes on HB 2386

HB 2386 would prohibit school districts from using radio frequency devices to track the location of students. This common sense proposal is critical to protect the privacy of our students. Thank you to the proponents for their leadership and foresight on this issue.

Students Ought Not Compromise Privacy in Order to Attend School

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are tiny computer chips that are more commonly used to track everything from cattle to commercial products moving through warehouses than track the movement of students in school. While school officials and parents may be enticed by the utility of RFID tags as a “cost-saving measure” to help with attendance tracking or even whether a student has eaten, we are concerned that the real price of insecure RFID technology is the privacy and safety of students.

These chips and the information they store are vulnerable to security breach that might result in the data being obtained and copied by unauthorized parties. Someone who wants to do harm to children could potentially sit in a car across the street and scan the students’ location without teachers, school officials, parents, or children ever knowing that any information has been read. And if this information can be read, it can be copied easily to a duplicate chip. A child could be taken off campus while the duplicate chip continues to tell RFID readers that the child is safely at school.

Examples of RFID tracking of students in Texas and California provide an opportunity for Oregon to ensure that such practice does not come to Oregon schools, teaching Oregon’s youth that schools are a safe place for learning and not a place where we must accept such an intrusive surveillance technology.

We Urge a Yes Vote on HB 2386

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