

February 25, 2015

Mr. Ben Tate  
Chief Information Officer  
Oregon Department of Education  
Office of Information Technology  
255 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Mr. Tate,

I had hoped to have the opportunity to testify on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in support for SB 187, the Student Information Protection Act. Unfortunately, this week has turned out to be extremely busy and I was not able to get away. In light of not being able to testify, I am requesting that you pass this letter along to the committee for consideration.

As Director of Technology for Springfield Public Schools, I am ultimately responsible for the safety and security of student data for our district. At Springfield, we take this responsibility seriously, working hard to do everything possible to protect the privacy of our students.

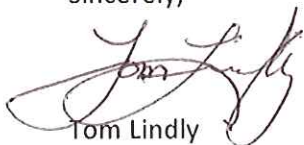
Like many districts in Oregon, Springfield is migrating portions of our computing to the Cloud. Cloud based computing has many advantages for school districts. Some of the advantages of Cloud based computing are: older computers are capable of running a web browser and can access these systems, they can be accessed by parents and students from anywhere using a variety of computer devices, and many systems are available for little or no cost. At the same time, Cloud based systems create challenges for districts in the area of data privacy.

It is often difficult and time consuming to navigate Cloud based vendor contracts to insure that there are adequate protections built in for student data. Currently, we use internal resources, other districts, legal counsel, and resources from ODE to insure that our students are protected as we enter into agreements with Cloud based vendors. It would be extremely advantageous for us to have legal guidelines at the state level that can be included and referenced during these discussions.

This legislation represents an important step in helping insure that all school districts in the state, large and small, can provide students with access to key educational technologies while protecting their privacy.

I hope you will seriously consider recommending SB 187 for passage.

Sincerely,



Tom Lindly  
Director of Technology  
Springfield Public Schools  
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