



DATE: April 15, 2015

TO: Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Iris Maria Chavez, Government Affairs Director, Stand for Children Oregon

RE: Senate Bill 187 A

Student Privacy

New education technologies show promise in enhancing overall education, and are gaining increasing attention across the country. These tools are wonderful additions to classroom practice and can be of great aid to students in the classroom, and beyond.

However, these tools collect, share, and store student data with commercial service providers and researchers, raising a range of privacy concerns. As it stands, federal law provides K-12 students and parents with some, but not many, protections from third parties' collection and use of student data. In addition, most state laws only address traditional student record-keeping in physical files, and are therefore inadequate given the various means by which education technology collects student data. It is time for our state laws to catch up with what is happening in industry and the classroom.

We were excited when SB 187 was initially introduced and focused on an effort to establish a task force to make recommendations regarding the privacy of students using educational software. We continue to believe that this piece of legislation can have a meaningful impact on student privacy, so long as particular ideas are included.

Stand for Children members believe that students in Oregon should have access to the best, which often means the newest, education technologies that will help their children be successful in the classroom. That said, they also want to ensure that their children are not being taken advantage of and can engage in education technologies without fear of their information being mishandled. This bill will move us in a positive direction, we urge you to support this legislation and work with interested parties to ensure that student information is protected.