



Written testimony opposing House Bill 2307

Lori Porter, Director of Parents' Rights in Education

April 28, 2015, 3pm in Hearing Room B; Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood;
Regarding HB 2307 (Prohibiting reparative therapy for minors)

Children belong to their parents. This legislation would create an unprecedented wedge between parents and their children, between community and schools; disregarding the diverse values and cultural norms of Oregonians. It is duplicitous to hold parents responsible for raising healthy children while taking away their rights to do so.

Parents and guardians have the ultimate legal authority over not only the education, but the health care of their children. House Bill 2307 threatens this. This legislation would be akin to your neighbor telling you that you could not take your child to the doctor. Although it is not your neighbor who is promoting this bill, it is Basic Rights Oregon.

HB 2307 will leave parents effectively silenced from seeking the health care they believe is best for THEIR child. This proposed legislation threatens the legal rights, moral responsibilities, and privileges of Oregon parents and guardians; deliberately coming between parent and child.

This legislation would also create a wedge between the community and Oregon public schools. School-based health centers (SBHC) service students where most district leaders have little to no oversight or awareness of what takes place in them. SBHCs all too often promote and provide confidential health services without parent's knowledge or consent. Additionally, in the past, SBHCs from across the state sent youth to the recently exposed and controversial Adolescent Sexuality Conference (ASC) held in Seaside.

For example, St. Helens school district sent nine students to the 2014 ASC. During the 2014-2015 school year, a St. Helens high school health fair was put on by a SBHC youth team. This fair featured an organization ([TransActive](#)) which promotes puberty inhibitors to minors, gender exploration and shares how to dodge parental notification; an organization where the executive director was a Keynote speaker at the 2013 ASC.

We take issue with gender-related ideologies being endorsed to minors by the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority while at the same time legislation is being considered that would essentially muffle a parent or guardians health care decision for their child.

We urge you to oppose HB 2307. Oregonians need assurance from their elected officials that their rights as parents will not be usurped.

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