

**Testimony to the House Education Committee**  
**Terry Brandon, Multnomah County Superintendents**

**2/15/2016**

Senate Bill 856 was passed during the 2015 session as Oregon's version of Erin's Law. It requires each school district to adopt a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in K-12 with instruction occurring 4 times per year in each grade level. **I want to be very clear that I am not speaking against the concept of the bill, just the issues with implementation.** HB 4099 is a current bill that delays the implementation requirement and directs ODE to conduct a study on implementation.

**Issues:**

The law speaks to trained instructors....what training?

How does a teacher manage a reaction to unmanaged memories surfacing? How do we expect our teachers to manage therapeutic issues/conditions?

What about other students who may be exposed to the tragic experiences of peers?

How does a teacher with a large group of kids manage delicate private matters?

1. 4 instructional sessions per year for every child K-12 will require significant outlay for staffing.
2. This topic is satisfied in the health program to an appropriate curricular degree.
3. The academic setting is not a good place to have these very personal conversations.

4. May trigger past memories and disclosures, which are best handled in a therapeutic setting.
5. Teachers are not trained for this work.

Please support the passage of HB 4099 to give schools adequate time to produce an effective instructional program and allow time for increased input.

--

Terry P Brandon  
Superintendent  
Riverdale School District

***"Riverdale students learn to use their minds well, engage creatively and act compassionately."***  
te