



Woodburn School District

1390 Meridian Drive, Woodburn, OR 97071

Phone 503-981-9555

Fax 503-981-8018

June 8, 2017

The Honorable Jennifer Williamson
The Honorable Mike McLane
The Honorable Dan Rayfield
The Honorable Greg Barreto
The Honorable Jodi Hack
The Honorable Paul Holvey
The Honorable Bill Kennemer
The Honorable Rob Nosse
The Honorable Barbara Smith Warner
House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Williamson & Committee Members:

On behalf of the Woodburn School District, I am writing to express support for House Bill 3464, "Protecting the Privacy of Oregonians." I am unable to testify due to a prior commitment; however, I ask that this letter be read into the official record.

The Woodburn School District has one of the most diverse student bodies in the state with more than 80 percent identifying as Hispanic or Latino. Angry rhetoric during the 2016 Presidential Election has made many of them fearful. Discussions in the news media about immigration and mass deportations have many students worried about their future and that of their families.

That's why the Woodburn School Board passed Resolution 17-001 reaffirming our commitment to the safety of all students entrusted to our care. We also pledged to offer a safe haven for all our students regardless of where they come from, how they worship, or other factors.

Our school district knows the law when it comes to collecting and sharing information about our students. Immigration status is not a condition of attending public schools. Sharing confidential student records, including immigration status (if known), is against the law. We can refuse to allow immigration officials in our schools, or participate in any enforcement activities.

However, many other public entities may not. Our state and nation are deeply divided around the issue of immigration. House Bill 3464 would ensure that all public bodies have guidelines in place to protect an individual's privacy while complying with federal and state laws.

Sincerely,

CHUCK RANSOM
Superintendent