

Dear Senators:

Thank you so much for having this hearing and taking the time to hear us on this crucial issue, the education of our children and future generations.

School choice is the only fair way to do things so that all families can go to the school of their choice. I think the transition will be difficult, but that cannot deter us.

Every family must have their children educated according to their values. I am a retired Christian school teacher, teaching for 17 years in Christian schools in the Portland area. My daughter, my only child, attended Christian schools through 8th grade and I was a single parent. My husband and her dad died before she was five of heart failure.

I did not want to put her in public schools knowing the very secular education she would get and was so glad to be able to put her in Christian schools. She was able to go because my parents helped out with the tuition.

I would not have been able to afford it on my own as my income in Christian schools was very low, but so worth it to be able to pray in school, teach the Bible and teach the children according to God's values. I was a certified teacher and am a graduate of OSU, born and raised in Corvallis.

It must be recognized that some of the public school curriculum is so counter-Christian that it is totally unacceptable to those of us who are followers of Christ. I realize that is strong language, but it breaks the hearts of all parents to have their children exposed to education that we feel is very detrimental to their future health and welfare.

Our country is so sensitive, though, to having freedom of religion for everyone that I would think to have School Choice would be agreeable to everyone, especially in the awesome state of Oregon.

Thank you very much for your self-less service to our state and the country as senators. God bless you and may truth and justice prevail.

JoAnn Jernigan