



March 13, 2019

To: Senate Health Care Committee

From: Jared Mason-Gere, Oregon Education Association

Re: opposition to SB 135

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

The Oregon Education Association and our 45,000 professional educators are strongly opposed to SB 135. It is unclear what imagined problem SB 135 purports to address; meanwhile, the consequences for educators and students would be severe.

The passage of SB 135 would severely restrict the educators who are able to use Applied Behavioral Analysis to assess and meet students' needs.

Oregon is facing a crisis of disrupted learning and already struggles with severe understaffing and workforce shortages in the areas of behavioral and mental health. This shortage of available trained professionals means many students do not receive the full complement of services and supports that they need in order to succeed in school.

To make matters worse, SB 135 could make districts and educators susceptible to civil penalties for simply trying to serve students.

We strongly urge your opposition to SB 135.