

# TIX Education Specialists

*"Bridging compliance and best practice."*

**SB 409**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation**

**March 11, 2021**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

I am writing you today on behalf of TIX Education Specialists (TIXEdu). TIXEdu provides training, consultation, and investigation services to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. Our focus is on Title IX as well as federal and state sexual harassment and assault laws. Our goal is to bridge compliance with evidence-based, trauma-informed best practices to help educators and school administrators serve their students best.

I am writing you today in opposition of SB 409, relating to sexual conduct towards children. I do appreciate the intent of the bill. Protecting Oregon students is at the forefront of many minds. As such, there is currently a large group of stakeholders working together and utilizing SB 242 as a vehicle to provide technical fixes to SB 155 (2019) which affects many of the same areas of statute referenced in SB 409. The ongoing conversations about how best to define sexual conduct and provide a policy that both protects students and is implementable by school districts have been lengthy. I am concerned that without input from the larger stakeholder group SB 409 would inadvertently do more harm than good by overlooking some of the intricacies of this nuanced topic.

We often receive feedback while training K-12 educators and administrators that one of the greatest challenges in the execution of Oregon's sexual harassment and sexual conduct laws is overlapping yet differing definitions and required responses. I worry that SB 409 would only further convolute the arena by duplicating existing enrolled bills such as SB 155 (2019) which discusses sexual conduct in schools and HB 3077 (2019) relating to school sexual harassment policies. Additionally, ORS 419B.010 already creates a Class A violation for failure to fulfill one's duty as a mandatory reporter.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my concerns to the committee.

Respectfully,

Sammy Brace  
Policy & Communications Manager