



To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: Senate Bill 52
Date: February 3, 2021

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Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chairs Thomsen, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 52.

The Student Success Act of 2019 created a number of programs to help students from traditionally underserved groups succeed. SB 52 would require the Oregon Department of Education to develop a statewide plan to support students who may be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary, or other minority gender identities or sexual orientations. SB 52 follows in the work and spirit of the Student Success Act, and would work in conjunction with other, similar plans targeting traditionally underserved communities, including the African American Black Student Success Plan (HB 2016, 2015), the English Language Learner Strategic Plan (HB 3499, 2015), Adi's Act (SB 52, 2019), and others.

The students that SB 52 targets need safe spaces and support. They are at dramatically higher risk of negative educational outcomes in comparison to other students of the same age and peer group. Schools are in a unique position to reinforce the value of all students and to provide these specific students a safe space to learn, flourish, and grow.

An anecdote recently came to OSBA offices about the grandfather of an Oregon student. This grandfather learned in late 2020 that he was the grandparent of a transgender youth. The parents of the student asked if he, the grandfather, would continue to support the child. The grandfather's response was, "Of course. All people deserve decency and respect in their lives." These SB 52 students all deserve to hear that message statewide.

Thank you for your time and please support SB 52.