

Submitter: Paul Matheny
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1521

This bill makes the situation worse throughout Oregon.

1. Contracts are negotiated, agreed to and signed by both parties. A "No cause" option is valuable for both parties, but this bill makes it an incentive to get fired. What employee wouldn't want a contract with a minimum 12 months of full pay for getting fired?

2. The superintendent reports to the school board which is elected and sets the local policies per the majority vote of the local population. This bill erroneously requires total agreement between Federal, State, and local polices with respect to education. If there is any reasonable disagreement between any of the three agencies, then the superintendent gets to choose their own boss. Conversely, this bill allows the State OR Federal to dictate policies of the local school board AND the actions of the superintendent. This bill states "Federal or State"; with this bill, Oregon is deferring its school board policies to unforeseen changes in federal policies.

In summary, this bill removes reasonable options in negotiated contracts and relegates Oregon's local school board policies to the consequences of federal elections. Is this really what Oregon legislators want?