

Submitter: Kate Kelleher  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1521

As a retired educator of over 40 years in the state of Oregon I want to throw my support behind Senate Bill 1521 and I hope you do too.

I have been concerned about the school boards becoming so politically entrenched and then their ability to fire a superintendent without just cause. As you know this has happened in my hometown of Newberg. This also happened with a friend of mine Melissa Golf, who was working as Albany's Superintendent. I do not support these firings by newly elected school boards. I believe in knowledge based decision making, which is when the members of a Board work together to build common ground and relationship with the principle players who are already in place- who have history and knowledge that newcomers do not possess.

Over my 40 years as a educator in Sherwood, issues arose between our school board, our superintendent and our educators. As an educational leader, I am thankful to say that we were always able to find common ground. I see this bill 1521, giving a required timeframe to all parties involved to find common ground and work through and resolve issues that will benefit all parties in the long run- especially students! A superintendent is an important leader – especially a leader of stability for a school district – any school district. Please know that I support Senate Bill 1521 and I hope you will too. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kate Kelleher