



Office of the Senate President

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Rob Wagner, State Senator for Senate District 19 and I serve as President of the Oregon Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on LC 52 — the Education Board Transparency bill.

As many of you know, I got my start in elected service on the Lake Oswego School Board in 2017. I grew up in Lake Oswego, graduated from local public schools, and my children attended school there as well. By the time I was elected, the Lake Oswego School Board had been recording its meetings and posting them online for more than 10 years. As active parents and community members, that meant that when myself or my wife or neighbors wanted to be engaged in our local school board, we were able to look back and see what they talked about at their most recent meeting despite our busy schedules.

During the coronavirus pandemic, many more school districts learned the value of streaming their meetings online and allowing for virtual participation so parents, teachers and students could stay engaged. However, working parents who couldn't watch the meeting live would still miss out on critical information since every school district does not upload their previous meetings.

LC 52 is a simple bill. It would require all K-12 school boards, public universities and community colleges to stream and post their meetings online and allow for remote participation in those meetings. This will improve the transparency of our education boards, grant greater access to these important public meetings, and promote equity by ensuring that all are able to stay engaged regardless of work schedules, economic means or geographic boundaries.

Many school districts — large and small — already stream and post their meetings online. Costs are minimal and the technology is widely available. Chair Dembrow, in your district — Senate District 23 — Portland Public Schools record, post, and allow for virtual participation in their meetings. Vice Chair Weber, in your Senate District 16 along the northern Oregon Coast, Clatsop Community College allows for full virtual participation and recordings of their meetings. In Eastern Oregon — Ontario School District allows for full virtual participation and records their meetings.

What could be more important than including all voices in our democracy — especially as it relates to our children and decisions that impact their education.



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Thank you for taking the time to consider LC 52.

*Robert A. Wagner*

Senator Rob Wagner