

26 February 2023

Senate Committee on Education

Re: Senate Bill 3

Dear Chair Senator Dembrow, Vice-Chair Senator Weber, and members of the Committee;

Another legislative bill in search of a *problem* to solve.

I am a product of Oregon's public education system (c. 1957-1969).

In the past the items this bill enumerates was something referred to as *parenting*. And where has that gone? It appears more and more parenting responsibilities are being adopted by our public school system.

As far as public education goes it is arguable that as tax-payers we are not getting our money's worth. Does anyone on the Committee believe that increasing the work load of the school system is going to lessen the number of administrators and other staff? Apparently the sponsors of this bill do.

I noted that parts of the bill contain a sprinkling of the term "homeless" here and there. Currently, it seems the equivalent – still in use—of the tactic of sprinkling "climate change" in most everything. Insert those words in a legislative bill or grant proposal and support is almost assured because... it's an "emergency". Right? And in this case.... "it's for the children," as well.

Basic standards continue to be lowered, and still we apparently have poor results from our public schools. We as a nation have gone from teaching Latin and Greek in high schools to teaching remedial English in college.

Stop, and table this bill. It is the job of education to teach people to think for themselves. Literacy and numeracy go a long way. Education begins when one is finally finished with public schools.

If this bill is supposed to cover practical life subjects, how about a course in gun safety?

Over the last several years I've been doing a little experiment when I meet up with high school students. I ask them, what's nine times thirteen? I haven't had the opportunity to ask many, but I also haven't met one that could answer the question. Try it yourselves and see what you get.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner