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To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist  
Re: Senate Bill 858  
Date: March 7, 2023

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 858.

Senate Bill 858 would put in statute the ability of a community to create a special “children’s district.” These districts would have responsibilities to benefit children though non-educational programs and could raise money through local taxes.

OSBA opposes SB 858 because of the potential negative impact on school district revenue, in particular on districts that have enacted local option levies. Because of Oregon’s unique local property system, local revenue that is collected as part of Oregon’s [school funding system is counted](#) on one side “of the ledger” of total funding allocations.

Adding a local revenue requirement, such as a children’s district levy, would impact, or compress, the ability of all other local governments in that area to continue with their levies. This compression could mean that, if enacted today, some school districts that currently rely on local levies to fund investments [in teachers](#) and [other services](#) could have their ability to collect those revenues reduced.

These are challenging time for children in Oregon. And while the intention of the proponents of SB 858 is likely good, it is time for a statewide approach to increased education funding, not a different way to slice up local option availability.

Please oppose SB 858.