

Submitter: John Garlitz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

House Committee Members On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am the parent of children attending Oregon public schools and I oppose HB 2002. The role of Parents are as the primary educators and decision maker of their children and parents have a fundamental basic right to all information and are the decision maker of all medical actions for their children. Parents entrust their children to schools for open, transparent education, not to have the school take on the parental role or deny parents their fundamental right to make all decisions surrounding their child's medical, social, or emotional conditions.

As HB 2002 is discussed in Committee on March 20th, please keep in mind a key paragraph of the Walter M. Pierce v. Society of Sisters decision as was written almost 100 years ago:

"The Act of 1922 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control. As often heretofore pointed out, rights guaranteed by the Constitution may not be abridged by legislation which has no reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the state. The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the state to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations."

HB2002 absolutely violates a parent's constitutional right to determine what is best for their children, placing Oregonians in same legal and Constitutional jeopardy as our Oregonian ancestors experienced in the 1920's.

Regards,

John Garlitz  
Union County, OR