

Friday, February 24, 2023

Lori Sattenspiel
Director Legislative Services
Oregon School Boards Association
1201 Court St. NE #400
Salem, OR 97301

Regarding: SB 292-1

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my support for SB 292-1. I've been a board member since 2014 and have served as both Board Chair and Vice Chair of Colton School District #53 the majority of that time. We are a small, rural school district. I have been on the school board for nine years.

Nobody wants our publicly elected officials unduly influenced, "bought and paid for," or in violation of conflict of interest. There are already laws and policies in place that carry fines and penalties for school board members and publicly elected officials who are found to be in violation. In addition to concerns of overreach, the reporting requirements of SB 292 are simply too cumbersome, unnecessarily invasive, and create additional liabilities. Examples: to report "expenses with an aggregate value exceeding \$50 provided to you" – even if it was a [church] missions trip; any "honoraria" "over \$15." "Income of \$1,000 or more" – even from any member of the household. And all the required info with those things. Being required to report Debt, Investment, Service Fees. Having to submit Supporting Documents. The threat of Fines and Fees. **One could be charged with perjury for a simple mistake.**

I believe we are going to lose good people from applying for and serving on local school boards in small, rural school districts if SB 292-1 is NOT implemented. That's why SB 292 – 1 needs to be passed immediately. I am aware of several board members who are considering resigning because SB 292 has made volunteering and serving too difficult and cumbersome. Please take action NOW to pass SB 292-1. **We are going to lose good people from applying to and serving on our school boards in this State.**

Thank you for hearing my concerns and for your advocacy on issues affecting Public Education in the State of Oregon. I appreciate you and all the work you and the folks at OSBA do on our behalf. At this point with SB 292's current SEI filing requirements, I am undecided as to how much longer I will volunteer and serve in this way. Please share my thoughts with members of the State's legislature.

Sincerely,

Tim Behrens
Vice Chair, Colton School District #53
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