



March 30, 2023

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyndall Mason, I am a public affairs consultant for the Oregon Education Association. We represent more than 41,000 educators, classified staff, and specialists in Oregon's public K-12 and Community College systems. This testimony is regarding SB 409.

The Oregon Education Association supports broad and consistent communication with parents in regard to student success. We also understand there is a broader national movement stating parents' rights and the need to access classroom curriculum. SB 409 seeks to make this material available to the general public, regardless of parental status. Creating public access to detailed curriculum does not bridge the gap between educators and parents, it would only serve to make educators more vulnerable to unsafe, targeted attacks.

Classrooms have been politicized in recent years in an effort to intimidate and scare teachers from teaching subjects they have been teaching for decades. What was once just a history class has now become fodder for bigotry and hate, overshadowing parents' rights and eclipsing the critical thinking being taught in schools. The intention behind SB 409 does not seem to be parent's rights, but further efforts to politicize and scapegoat educators in an increasingly unsafe and high stress profession.

For these reasons, we cannot support SB 409 as written, but can be neutral on the -6 amendment, requesting that districts have a link to the Oregon Department of Education curriculum standards that all public schools must meet. There are established avenues for communication between parents and educators, we urge parents to use them. Parent teacher conferences, back to school nights, and regular email communication, are just a few of the opportunities parents have to communicate with their child's teachers. If direct communication proves too difficult, the Oregon Department of Education should be an appropriate resource for understanding what is being taught in our classrooms.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,  
Kyndall Mason  
Public Affairs Consultant, Oregon Education Association